



Laugardalsætt's tour overview

June 13–24, 2013
by Már Viðar Másson

Day 1 – Thursday, June 13

The Icelandair flight to Minneapolis departed Keflavik at 16:45 and arrived at 18:05 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Our tour leader, **Almar Grímsson**, met us at the terminal, after we had passed through immigration and customs. We boarded a bus from Trobec Co. and travelled to the Hotel Holiday Inn in Alexandria, MN for the first over-night stay. Our tour bus was driven by **Don Rudolph**, who has been with Icelandic groups several times before. Sandwiches, beer and water were served in bus.

See my photos from the tour. String to *Flickr* at the end of this account.

Day 2 – Friday, June 14

We visited the *Runestone Museum* in Alexandria, MN, where we saw the famous *Kensington Runestone*. Were there Nordic people (Vikings) in Minnesota in the 14th century? If so, they sailed into Hudson Bay and down the Red River. *Cree* and *Ojibway* Indians preserve stories about white men coming from the North. If that is the case, this is an extraordinary story. See *Saga of the Greenlanders*. At the museum a very big man showed us around. For more information on the stone: <https://www.runestonemuseum.org>

Curtis and **Bonnie Thorfinnson** from Alexandria met us at the museum. They came on board the bus for a while.

We then drove to Fargo/Moorhead (2 hours), where we had lunch at a truck stop on 66th Street. We had coffee at Grand Forks, where we were able to pick up anti-bug spray and after-bite to be prepared for the mosquitos of North Dakota and Manitoba. Then, we continued on to Grafton, ND to check in at the Hotel AmericInn. A buffet dinner was served at Shenanigan's restaurant. Here we were met by an additional member of Laugardalsætt, **Ingunn Eiríksdóttir**, who lives in New York City. **Ingunn's** mother, **Ragnheiður**, and grandmother, **Ingunn**, who were on the tour, were just as surprised to see her as was everyone else. Ingunn stayed with us for a few days.

Day 3 – Saturday, June 15

We left Grafton and were soon at the Icelandic settlement in *Pembina County*. Our first stop was at the pioneer church at *Gardar*. The church was built in 1888, but the congregation had been organized eight years earlier, getting its name in 1885. The church is now maintained as a memorial to the pioneers of the community. It is used occasionally for funerals and weddings with one or two regular services held during the

summer. The altarpiece in Gardar church has an inscription in Icelandic: “Hver sem ekki meðtekur Guðs ríki eins og barn mun aldrei koma þangað.”

John H. Johnson (Jón Jónsson), who is closely related to poet **Stephan G. Stephanson** (lived in Gardar from 1880-89), showed us around Gardar, and told stories about the early Icelandic settlement there. In the cemetery, we saw the headstones of **Guðmundur Stefánsson** (Stephan’s father), and of Stephan’s son, who died young by accident. Then, we saw the Stephan G. Stephanson marker, which was dedicated in 2003, on the 150th anniversary of his birth. The monument is at the foot of the hillside where Stephan’s farm stood. On a plate on the monument you can read: "Hér kom íslenskt afl sem hóf upp úr jörðu steininn ..."

Then, we had the pleasure of visiting **Sunna Pam Olafson-Furstenau** at her farm, *Óðinssæti*, in Gardar. She invited us into her beautiful vacation home, where we also met her husband **Jeff**. They showed us wild game animals, that he had hunted with a bow and arrows, in different countries. These are now stuffed and placed all over their house, in very convincing postures. The couple also took us to the brink of a cliff over a ravine in the lot behind the house. A nice little river (Park River) runs through the bottom of the ravine. This is quite spectacular in the otherwise very flat landscape of North Dakota.

Sunna is a representative at the *Icelandic National League of Iceland* (Þjóðræknisfélag Íslendinga), 2nd Vice President at the *Icelandic National League of North America*, and a genealogist. We presented her with some small gifts to show our gratitude. Her home page is <http://icelandicroots.com/>

We proceeded to *Thingvalla* cemetery. The Thingvalla church burned down in an accidental fire in June 2003. It was decided not to rebuild it, but to create a memorial site, with boards telling the story of the church, and then raise a small copy of **Bertel Thorvaldsen’s** statue of Jesus Christ. The original statue stands in the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.

On one of the boards at the cemetery we could read: “We dedicate this memorial in honor of our Icelandic ancestors. We respect their courage and determination to leave a beloved homeland in search of a better life in America. They worked hard to build a life and a community based on strong moral values, faith in God, devotion to family, and the importance of education. May God bless them, and may their noble independent spirits live on in their descendants.”

The grave and monument honouring the memory of poet **Kristjan Níels Júlíus Jónsson** (nicknamed Kainn or KN) is at Thingvalla.

We continued on to *Mountain*, ND where the bus ascended “the mountain”, as steep as Bankastræti in Reykjavik. The community was established by Pastor **Páll Þorláksson** (Pall Thorlakson) in 1878. Today, this is a thriving Icelandic settlement, with an active Icelandic club, *The Icelandic Communities Association of ND*, under the leadership of **Curtis Olafson**, a former senator from North Dakota. His wife is **Björk Eiríksdóttir Olafson**.

We met with **Loretta Bernhoft**, who is the *Honourary Consul of Iceland* in North Dakota. She provided lunch for the group in the new community hall in Mountain. **Curtis** and **Björk** were there, of course, and some of us saw Curtis afterwards, in his big pick-up, hauling an even larger cattle-carrier. “This carrier has never seen a horse!” was his reply to our questions. No, the carrier is for transporting live bulls to cows on demand.

After lunch we visited *Víkurkirkja* (Vikur) in Mountain, the oldest Icelandic church in the New World. **Loretta** takes good care of her church, which now allows all Christian congregations under its roof. She escorted us around the church and told us its history. You can read more on Mountain in Wikipedia.

We visited *Borg*, the nursing home in Mountain, where we met **Magnus Olafson**, who has always been active in promoting the links between Iceland and the Icelandic communities of North America, especially his own community. In 1999, Magnus was honoured with the *Order of the Icelandic Falcon* (Riddarakross). He is also an honorary member of *Icelandic National League of Iceland* (Þjóðræknisfélag Íslendinga). He is a great admirer of the *Baggalútur* song group, which visited the area in 2007 and 2009. They produced a CD with music composed by the band and poems written by KN. The CD was occasionally played in our bus. There is a photo of Magnus, this beautiful old man, reading from his book "*A Knight in Dakota*" at Borg Home, in September 2013, on the "August of Deuce" website. Look that up!

We sang a few Icelandic songs for the residents and the personnel at Borg. We did this, every now and then, on our trip. Pastor **Úlfar Guðmundsson**, of Laugadalsætt, is a fine piano player and had a small music-book with him. So, whether there was a piano on location or not, **Úlfar** directed the singing. At the *Consulate General* in Winnipeg, later on this trip, the young **Ingunn Eiríksdóttir** played a few songs on the piano, as well.

Our next stop was at *Icelandic State Park*, established in 1964 on *The Gunlogson Homestead*. "Additional land was acquired when **G.B. Gunlogson** and his sister **Loa** donated 200 acres of their family's homestead". We checked out old family houses, as well as the Hallson Church, a school and an Icelandic Lutheran church.

After a very nice day in Pembina County, we drove to Winnipeg, MB where we checked in at *Hotel Best Western/Charter House* on York Avenue for three nights. Some dined at the hotel, others went out for dinner.

Day 4 – Sunday, June 16

This was "*Family Reunion Day*" in Winnipeg. We were invited to a great reception at the St. Boniface Golf & Country Club. Other settings were too small for this big event. Approximately 220 North Americans of Laugardalsætt descent, and their families, were there to welcome us. We were speechless, except for **Gylfi**, who behaved as usual.

Among those present were descendants of two of **Katrín Eyjólfsdóttir** and **Þorleifur Guðmundsson's** children:

- **Eyjólfur Þorleifsson** (1a).
- **Dýrfinna Þorleifsdóttir** (1b).
An Icelandic family, who attended the celebration, are descendants of their third child;
- **Guðmundur Þorleifsson** (1c).

See name-tags' lineage table for further knowledge of the family. It's close to the end of this report.

This magnificent family reunion was planned by **Dennis B. Sigurdson**, **Catherine (Cathy) Sigurdson Burke**, **Colleen Johnson Rogala** and **David Bissky** from Winnipeg; **Allan Johnson** from Aylmer, Quebec; and **Donna Crozier** from Edmonton, Alberta. Allan was the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Lunch was served and later coffee and sweets. This was all very beautiful, well prepared, and successful. Everyone carried his/her name-tag in order to communicate on a family-basis. During the event, we circulated

and met relatives, and some had travelled up to 2500 kilometers, from Canada and the United States, to engage in the celebration. It is interesting that many of the North Americans were also meeting each other for the first time. Many of them had not known, before this event was planned, that they were part of our family.

Dr Benjamin Rogala demonstrated the Laugardalsætt website, which was launched at this event. The website is managed by Gylfi's son, Kristinn. You may view the website at:

<http://www.laugardalur.org/genealogy/blog/html/index.html>. You will be required to sign in by typing the username: *bodmodsstadir*, and the password: *katrin*.

Thank you very much, all of you! We know that many of you had travelled over long distances to meet us and participate in this family reunion.

After the event, some of us went downtown to dine in some of Winnipeg's restaurants, while others went to *The Forks* (a National Historic Site where the Red River meets the Assiniboine River), and others walked across the bridge to St. Boniface.

Day 5 – Monday, June 17 [Icelandic National Day (Independence Day) in Winnipeg]

We boarded our much loved bus for a city sightseeing tour. Our able guide was **Gudrun Viola Bjarnason Hilton**, who spoke in mixed Icelandic and English (and sometimes called Winnipeg "Icelandic"). We drove on a street named after the Canadian/British spy **Sir William Stephenson** -- best known by his code name, **Intrepid**. Sir William was born William Samuel Clouston Stanger. His mother, **Sarah Johnson**, was Icelandic, but his father, **William Hunter Stanger**, was from the Orkney Islands. Sir William was the head of the British Security Coordination, an MI6 organisation, based in New York. Regarding him, **Ian Fleming** wrote in *The Sunday Times* of 21st October 1962 that **James Bond** was: "a highly romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing, the man who became one of the great agents of the [Second World War] is William Stephenson".

There is a connection between **Sir William** and Laugardalsætt! Five of the children of **Magnús Eyjólfsson** (2d), a farmer at Lykkja in Kjalarnes in Iceland, immigrated to Canada. Among them was **Guðrún Magnúsdóttir** (3d). One of her daughters, **Hallfríður (Fríða or Freda) Ólafsdóttir Freemann** (4c), married **Guðlaugur L. Stefánsson** (Stephenson), son of **Vígfús Stefánsson** and **Kristín Guðlaugsdóttir**. Vígfús, who had by then changed his name to Stephenson, and Kristín adopted Sir William at the age of five, after his father died, and Sarah, his mother, could not care for all three of her children. Sir William took up the name of his adoptive parents; William Stephenson.

Then, we visited the office of *Logberg-Heimskringla* "the oldest ethnic newspaper in North America – 1886" at 100-283 Portage Avenue. This was one more surprise for us. All these Icelandic pictures and books, and all this interest in Iceland and Icelandic culture. Amazing! The newspaper staff explained the organization for us, in English and in Icelandic. We were encouraged to subscribe to the online edition -- the first month is free!

Almar received this e-mail after our visit to Logberg-Heimskringla:

Dear Almar.

Thank you for visiting us at the office with your group. Each person who would like the month free for the L-H online only must follow the steps below. If you wish to subscribe please contact at lh@lh-inc.ca to purchase an

online subscription with promo fees one year for \$20.00. Please select one of the following, for the 1 month free, online only newspaper.

1. Create an account.
2. Send me an email at lh@lh-inc.ca with your username and I will activate your account. [Open] L-H online on www.lh-inc.ca Member Login is on the right hand side of your screen. Enter your username and [your new] password. Once you have logged in with your account, you will be able to read your newspaper. Select Media Gallery, then select Icelandic Paper, and then select 2013.

Contact the office by email at lh@lh-inc.ca. We will be pleased to assist you.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Audrey Juve Kwasnica

Logberg-Heimskringla Inc
100 - 283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B5
Tel: 204.927.5645
Fax: 204.284.7099
Toll Free: 1.866.564.2374

Our next stop was at the **Scandinavian Centre** (www.scandinaviancentre.ca) at 764 Erin Street, where we had lunch. We checked out the Icelandic room, with Icelandic books and pictures. Thank you once again, Vesturfarar! May all your service be blessed!

We stopped at the painted wall, showing pictures from Disney's adventures, drawn by the animator **Charlie Thorson**, who is of Icelandic origin. Some had their photos taken in front of the wall. We went into the First Lutheran Church, built in 1921. The congregation had been founded in 1878 by rev. Jón Bjarnason. Members of the present congregation cannot agree on how to refurbish the building. And we visited the Betelstaður nursing home, where we could see Icelandic names on the post boxes. On a wall in the home we saw a memorial plate that said:

"Dedicated to the memory of

H. Freeman Skaptason

1911-1997

- o -

With grateful recognition
for his foresight in the planning
and building of Betelstaður.

His many years of leadership
dedication and loyalty to our community
will always be treasured
and greatly appreciated.

- o -

Board of Directors
and Residents of Betelstaður.

Dedicated March 30, 1998."

After a brief stop at the hotel we proceeded to the Icelandic Consulate at 1 Wellington Crescent for a reception by invitation of *Consul General of Iceland* **Hjálmar W. Hannesson** and his wife **Anna Birgis**. The office has a balcony allowing guests to commune with the muddy Red River. We met many distant relatives and other interesting people. **Ron (Ronald) Johnson** (5f), president of the *Icelandic Canadian club FRÓN* in Winnipeg, was there and received a parcel full of Icelandic licorice that I had bought for him in Flugstöð Leifs Eiríkssonar, to be served at a FRÓN meeting. Ron is descended from **Erlendur Eyjólfsson** (2i). His wife **Barb (Barbara)** accompanied him.

Many speeches were given and many new relationships were formed. We sang a few Icelandic songs with Pastor Úlfar Guðmundsson at the piano. Ingunn Eiríksdóttir, who had joined our group in Minneapolis, played a few songs on the piano, as well. Thank you, **Hjálmar** and **Anna!**

At 18:30, we were on the lawn in front of the *Manitoba Legislative Building*, by **Jón Sigurdsson**'s statue, for the annual *Wreath Laying Ceremony* in celebration of *Jón Sigurdsson Day* in Manitoba on the 69th Anniversary of Iceland's Independence Day. This was an extraordinary experience for all of us. Seeing all these wonderful people and hearing the eloquent speeches was very touching. We heard the Icelandic Canadian Choir, "*Sólskríkjan*", perform; we heard all those present sing the Icelandic and the Canadian anthems; we heard **Karen Botting** (the president of *Jón Sigurdsson Chapter IODE*) welcome us; and we heard guest speaker **Hjálmar W. Hannesson**, and Lt Governor **Philip S. Lee**, C.M., O.M., and **Peter Bjornson** (MLA for the Interlake region) who addressed the guests on behalf of the honourable **Greg Selinger**, Premier of Manitoba. Then, **Kathi Thorarinson Neal**, past president of the *Icelandic Festival of Manitoba*, introduced the *Fjallkona of 2013*, **Maxine Helgason Ingalls**, who gave a splendid speech. We were to see **Maxine** again on her home ground in Mikley (Hecla Island). This was all arranged by *Jón Sigurdsson Chapter IODE* and the *Icelandic Canadian Frón Chapter Inl.*, and supported also by former *Consulate General of Iceland* **Atli Ásmundsson** (who had served in Winnipeg for 9 years, and was succeeded by **Hjálmar W. Hannesson** on 1 June 2013), and *Neil Bardal Funeral Centre*. **Atli** was later this summer to be appointed to be an honorary member of the *Icelandic National League of Iceland/Þjóðræknisfélag Íslendinga*, as was our tour leader, **Almar Grímsson**, past president of that organization, and founder of the *Snorri Program*. Almar, now that you are hereafter "our" man, I congratulate you, on behalf of the Laugarvatnsætt!

The *Icelandic Canadian Frón*, founded by **Gudrun Skaptason** in 1916, is the *Winnipeg Chapter* of the *Icelandic National League of North America*. Frón endeavours to promote and to preserve a healthy, vibrant Icelandic culture and heritage within Canadian society.

The *Jón Sigurdsson Chapter IODE* is a chapter of *IODE Canada*, a women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service and citizenship programs.

I would like to recommend **Jónas Þór's** book *Varðinn í Vestri* (The Statue in the West). It describes very well the Icelandic settlements, and their people, in Canada and the Northern U.S.A., at the turn of the century. The centre of attention is the collection of money to send to Iceland, so that a statue of **Jón Sigurdsson** could be made and erected in Reykjavík, in the memory of **Jón's** 100th birthday in 1911. This book is available in English.

Afterwards, our friendly driver took us to the *Winnipeg Art Gallery* for still more entertainment -- a couple of concerts, storytelling and dancing. **Ron Johnson**, the President of *Icelandic Canadian Frón*, welcomed us and

served as the Master of Ceremonies. Then, Fjallkona **Maxine Ingalls** arrived, escorted by **Tim Arnason**. **Peter Bjornson** made some remarks on 17th June, which has been proclaimed *Jon Sigurdsson Day* in Manitoba. We had some excellent performances by young artists from the *Núna (now)* ensemble. They named the program *Icelandic Vaudeville*. **Dane Bjornson**, 13 year old, sang some of his songs, and novelist, poet, playwright, film writer, former professor of poetry, and non-fiction writer, **David Arnason** read his wonderful and emotional story "*Prelude to America*". Then, **John K. Samson** performed a couple of his songs, set in Manitoba. Then, **Rachelle Bourget** performed her own choreography, "*of dystopia*", for us, with music by **Aaron Martin**. **Simon Huges** showed his video, a story originally taken on an 8 mm film in the 1970s, "*Bicycle*", from 2010. For the final performance, **Kathleen Hiley** danced "*Mara*" by **Stephanie Ballard**, with music by Saint Saens. The *Núna (now)* program was founded by **Atli Ásmundsson**, some years ago.

Day 6 – Tuesday, June 18

We boarded our bus and travelled to visit Icelandic settlements on the west shore of Lake Manitoba. Our first stop was the cemetery at *Westbourne*, where **John Thordarson**, of Laugardalsætt, led us to the graves of **Guðrún Eyjólfsdóttir** and **Tómas Ingimundarson**. That was a very emotional event! John described the history of the cemetery and theorized about why they had been buried there, since they had lived at Big Point, about 40 km further north. There were also other members of the Laugardalsætt family buried at this cemetery. **Guðrún** is 2g in the name-tag lineage table at the end of this record.

Haraldine Magnusson-Webb wrote: As far as I can conceive, my amma's parents, Tomas Ingimundarson and Gudrun Eyjolfsdottir, as well as my afi's mother, Ingibjorg Bodvarsdottir were the first to die in the Big Point community. They died in 1898 and 1899. But there was no cemetery then! Thus the long trip to Westbourne, by wagon and horses, for each one. I had asked my uncle, **Archibald Johnson** (Jonsson), father of cousin Jonas Johnson, why they were buried there, and this is what he told me.

Then, we continued on to *Langruth*, where we were welcomed by about 100 members of the Laugardalsætt family, at the Langruth Community Hall. Our relative **Philip Thordarson**, Reeve (Godi), an elected chief executive of the Rural Municipality of Lakeview (sysla), with help from a local committee of our relatives, had planned a very nice program for us. We were invited to a lunch in the community hall, with its blue painted walls. Once again we were surprised by the hospitality of Vesturfara. The food was generous and excellent. After a short speech by Philip, acknowledging those present and thanking the local committee, **Theresa Thordarson** (a daughter of Philip and his wife **Phyllis**) played the piano for us. And in the end, our tour group sang a few Icelandic songs with Pastor Úlfar Guðmundsson at the piano. This was well received by our relatives at Langruth. In the local reception committee were, in addition to Philip and Phyllis, **Doris Sigurdson** (who went to Iceland soon after) and **Asgar Sigurdson**, **Lydia** and **Jonas Johnson**, **James Bodvar Magnusson**, **Robert Thompson**, **Emily Thompson** (wife of **Ralph Thompson**), **Bob Webb**, and **Haraldine Magnusson Webb**. (The Thompsons changed their names from Tomasson). Thank you all very much!

After lunch, we boarded our bus, for a tour of the Icelandic settlement at *Big Point*, and along the west shore of Lake Manitoba. This tour included visits to the memorial stone at the site of the Herdubreid Hall (Big Point Hall), a centre of the Icelandic social life at that time (www.allanjohnson.ca/settlers/documents/bigpoint.htm), the Icelandic Cemetery at *Big Point*, and two 100 year old farms (Johnson farm and Thordarson farm), with

their very unique houses, which had been ordered from an Eaton's catalogue 100 years ago and assembled on site.

After dropping by at a church in Langruth, we visited **Bodvar Johnson's** farm (his wife was Gudrun Tomasdottir), where we were met with outstanding hospitality by farmer **Jonas (Joey) Johnson** (grandson of Gudrun and Bodvar), his wife **Lydia** and their family. In the yard we were served refreshments. **Don** (our driver) turned into a photographer, once again, and released the shutter of ten cameras.

We continued on to the *Thordarson farm*, where **Phyllis** and **Phillip Thordarson** live. Phyllis and Philip invited us into their house and to a dining table set with wonderful breads and cakes. They are farmers and we were *in the country*, again. Their daughter is **Theresa Thordarson**, the piano-player. I bought her CD which contains her recordings of "A Palette of Colours" by **Rémi Bouchard**. On the album she wrote: "Lovely to meet you! Hope to see you in Iceland soon". There is much music in the *Thordarson's house*. It's full with instruments and CDs. **Philip** and his farm hand, who is an Aboriginal, entertained us playing old time country music on the piano and a fiddle. **Jón Vilhjálmsson** and **Ester Jónsdóttir** of Laugardalsætt danced, accompanied by the musicians.

In response, we sang some Icelandic songs for the household, managed by Pastor Úlfar. **Agnar Björnsson**, our dedicated photographer, shot some videos of the playing and dancing. Our time at the *Thordarson farm* was very enjoyable.

We then proceeded to the Lake Manitoba Narrows for an overnight at *The Narrows West Lodge and Chalets*. The establishment is owned and managed by **Blair Olafson**, son of **Gudjon**, of Laugardalsætt. He and other relatives offered us a fine roast beef dinner on the restaurant's patio. This was a delightful evening. Some saw and felt mosquitos, other looked the other way.

Day 7 – Wednesday, June 19

We said farewell to the Narrows and had a special farewell moment with **Allan Johnson** and his wife **Joanne**. Allan had been our most important contact in America. We drove through Siglunes and Vogar to *Lundar*. The Icelandic club there had prepared a very charming lunch for us, and we were met by **Yvonne Josephson** and **Greg Brown**, the latter being Almar's cousin. There were also the **Sigfusson** brothers, who run the very successful construction company **Sigfusson Northern**, and of course **Linda Sigurdson Collette**, a historian at the University of Manitoba, in Icelandic studies. Among the hosts were also two former participants in the *Snorri Program*; **Arlene Brandson** and **Don Thorkelson**.

In *Lundar* we came upon a plaque with this inscription:

Erected 1955 in
commemoration of
Icelandic pioneers
of Lundar, Westfold,
Otto, Markland and
adjoining districts

they established
settlement in 1887.
Hér er þetta minnismerki
mönnum jafnt og konum reist,
sem þann manndóm sýndu í verki
svo þeim allir gátu treyst.
Aldrei glati orðstí góðum,
afkomandi landnemans,
frægðarorð þú færð hjá þjóðum
fetir þú í sporin hans.

- o -

V.J. Guttormsson

We had a nice group photography at the large *goose statue*, and on the occasion of the “women’s day”, which was being celebrated in Iceland, the female participants were photographed at the *Pioneer Statue*.

Then, we continued on to our final destination for this day, Gull Harbour, which is located on the northernmost point of Hecla Island (Mikley). The hotel there (Lakeview Hecla Resort) is nice and we liked it. Some did not want to leave the morning after (but we were patient and waited for them). Some are destined to come back and play golf at the resort!

Day 8 – Thursday, June 20

And who lives on Hecla Island (Mikley), other than *Fjallkona of 2013*, **Maxine Helgason Ingalls**? She and her husband, **John**, took us around the settlement, into an old school and a nice home where people of Icelandic origin had lived. It was relieving to see that the Icelandic settlers had lived in fine houses like this one, after the hardship they often experienced in the beginning of their life in the New World. We saw an Icelandic speaking old fisherman, **Maurus Thomsen**, bring his catch onto land. At the fishing-museum we were introduced to the magic of under-the-ice fishing. The **Ingalls** also showed us the church, which they take good care of. Thank you for that, **Maxine and John**! We would have liked to stay in Hecla, with the **Ingalls**, for a whole day, and hopefully there will be another day. I bought **Maxine**’s book: “Mikley Monuments; Portraits of Hecla Island”, which is filled with pictures taken by herself and her daughter, **Stefanie**. Very nice, **Maxine**, thank you!

We continued on to *Arborg*, where we visited **Rosalind** and **Einar Vigfusson** in Drangey. **Rosalind** directs the *Nýja Ísland Children’s Choir* and **Einar** is a widely known tree-sculpturer. **Rosalind** gave us cassettes with her children’s choir, singing Icelandic songs in Icelandic. And **Einar** took us to his workshop, where he carves birds out of wood. **Einar** is a genius in his field. The birds are beautiful.

Once again, we were offered a lunch arranged by Vesturfarrar, this time at the *Arborg Heritage Museum*. **David Gislason**, a farmer, a poet and a cultural heritage promoter, and **Joel Fridfinnson** were on duty. Joel, a young farmer, spoke with us in fine Icelandic. Joel joined us on the bus and was our guide through *Geysisbyggð* to Riverton. **David** performed *Sandy Bar* in deep, clear voice, by heart. At the *Icelandic National League of Iceland*

(Þjóðræknisfélag Íslendinga) convention in August 2013 in Reykjavik, **David** informed the public about the “Litla íslenska bókmenntafélagið í Manitoba”. That club specializes in **Benedikt Sveinbjarnarson Gröndal**. At the convention, **Svavar Gestsson** said to **David**: “You may be proud to be the son of this nation (Icelandic), but the nation is no less proud of you being its son.” In the year 2000 **David** received the *Knight’s Cross of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon* from Iceland’s President. See **David**’s registration to the hall of fame at <http://www.manitobaaghalloffame.com/media/Gislason.MAHF.09.pdf>

In the museum’s dining room there were many people to greet us. A woman sat by a table and sold her books, which all take place in the Interlake area. The stories are regional in the sense that they describe the society where she lives (close to Arborg). This woman is **Carol Gardarsson**. You can look her up on the internet. I bought her book “*Brewing Evil*”.

After Arborg, our firm intention brought us to Riverton by the *Icelandic River* (Íslendingafljót), the home of **Sigtryggur Jónasson**. Sigtryggur was the first Icelander to settle in Canada, in 1872; father of New Iceland; and a “Person of National Historic Significance”. We saw a newly erected statue of **Sigtryggur** – at Möðruvellir, a part of Riverton’s Centennial Park, looking across the river, a work of *Icelandic River Heritage Sites Inc.* www.icelandicriver.com . On the foundation of Sigtryggur’s statue there was a plaque with this inscription:

Captain
Sigtryggur Jonasson
1852-1942
Father of New Iceland.
Founder of
The first Icelandic newspaper
in North America.
First Icelandic member of
the Manitoba Legislature 1896.
Tryggur og trúr í starfi,
sigráði hann.
1976

See more about Riverton Centennial Park: <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/rivertoncentennialpark.shtml>.

On the road, I had been reading aloud about **Guttormur J. Guttormsson**’s life, and some of his poems. **Guttormur** is not of Laugardalsætt, but is from Fljótsdalshérað, close to the east coast of Iceland, although he was born in Canada. **Guttormur** 1878-1966 is a relative of mine, and therefore the group accepted to listen to me reading some of his poems for them, which are all in Icelandic. We saw a fine, large granite memorial, celebrating this Icelandic Canadian’s life and his poetry, in *Riverton Centennial Park*. He is described as the “*Poet Laureate of New Iceland*”. Soon, we were to visit *Víðivellir*, the farm that **Jón, Guttormur**’s father had built, but which burned down some years ago. The only sign left at *Víðivellir* is *Guttormslundur*, actually the garden that had belonged to the farm, which was only a stone’s throw away from the muddy Icelandic River.

We were invited to see the farm *Engimýri*, a few hundred yards away from Víðivellir. Engimýri was built by **Tómas Jónasson**, who came originally from a farm with the same name in Öxnadalur, a valley in Eyjafjörður. Engimýri is now being renovated by **Nelson Gerrard, Wanda Anderson, Joel Fridfinnson** and other volunteers of the *Icelandic River Heritage Sites Inc.* Víðivellir is now a part of that project. We were served coffee, kleinur and vinarterta by these people. **Wanda** looked much like my wife **Margrét**, so their photo was taken. Speaking of likeness; a woman at the big Winnipeg family reunion festivities looked very much like **Margrét**'s sister, so she had her photo taken, as well. Nelson accepted, as a gesture of our gratitude, the two big green books on Laugardalsætt. You can read about Víðivellir and Engimýri at this website:

http://www.irhs.sagapublications.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=45&temid=62

It was now time to turn our horses to *Gimli*, with a short stop in *Arnes*, which is where the Arctic explorer **Vilhjalmur Stefansson** was born, two years after his parents left Iceland for New Iceland. They eventually moved further south to North Dakota. We checked out **Stefansson**'s monument, where group photographs were taken. Surprise!

After a long and eventful day we finally settled at the Lakeview Inn and Resorts in Gimli for 2 nights.

Day 9 – Friday, June 21

This was supposed to be an easy day. Anyway, the bus took us out to *Willow Point* on Víðirnes, just south of Gimli. This was the place where the first Icelanders landed on October 21st, 1875. They were sailing on rafts hauled by a towboat. The destination was the mouth of the river that later got the name Icelandic River, but a storm prevented them from reaching that location.

Dedicated to
Petrina and Gudjon
Arnason
by
the Arnason family.

- o -

In memory of
the pioneers of
New Iceland.
The birthplace of
the first Icelander in
Western Canada
Jon Olafur Johannson.
October 22, 1875

The New Iceland Heritage Museum and Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society had a reception for its members, and for us, at the *The New Iceland Heritage Museum* in Gimli <http://www.nihm.ca/about-nihm.html>. The museum featured a hat exhibit, entitled “Hats: A Reflection of Time” and all the local people had funny hats on. While we sat at the café, a representative of the society talked to us and showed a film about the Icelandic settlement. The museum is managed by **Tammy Axelsson**. Thank you very much, Gimli!

After this, our group split up. Some went for Amma’s Café, others for the Reykjavik Bakery or for Tergesen’s store. “Original. Always. Since 1899”, is the store’s slogan.

Day 10 – Saturday, June 22

We bid farewell to Gimli and drove southward. This tour was coming to an end! We passed Winnipeg on the Perimeter Highway, and entered the United States again. We stopped in *Grand Forks*, ND to have lunch at an oriental buffet restaurant called Panda.

After the lunch stop, with some mosquito-bites, we headed east to *Bemidji* in Minnesota. We went to the source (beginning point) of the mighty Mississippi River, where it runs from *Lake Itasca*. It is so shallow here that we could easily cross it, with the water level up to our knees! And many of us did. There are, for sure, hundreds of photos to prove that.

Lake Itasca’s height above the sea level is only 1475 feet (450 m). The river flows, on its winding way, 2552 miles to the Gulf of Mexico (4107 km). That’s only 1 meter down for every 9 kilometers the river runs. Minneapolis/St. Paul is not that far away, but there we saw a totally different Mississippi.

We then checked into our Hotel AmericInn for a good night’s sleep.

Day 11 – Sunday, June 23

It was now time to turn further south, towards Minneapolis/St. Paul. We were now on the home grounds of our driver, **Don**, who booked a lunch for us at a Pizza buffet in Little Falls, MN. There we took the opportunity to thank and honour him for safe driving and excellent service. After lunch he drove the bus past his house, at the Mississippi riverbank, and he slowed down the bus while driving past his Christmas tree plantation. Good job, Don! Then we drove straight to Minneapolis/St. Paul.

We stayed one night at the Springhill Hotel and Suites in *Bloomington* MN, the hometown of The Mall of America, and very close to the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. We said good bye to our tour leader, **Almar**, who had to return to Iceland one day earlier than expected, due to family matters.

But this was not the end. At six o’clock the Icelandic society in town threw a party for us! They brought the food with them and served, within no time at all. Once again we were overwhelmed. And these were nice people, as always. One of them, Dr. **Örn Arnar**, Consul General for Iceland, a physician who has lived in Minneapolis/St. Paul for 40 years, provided us with an entertaining speech, explaining for us why people had emigrated from Iceland in the late eighteen hundreds, until 1914. His speech was emotional and we understood that no-one had left his country of birth, without a very valid reason. Örn’s wife, **Margrét**

Kristjánsdóttir (Maddý) Arnar from Ísafjörður, was there with him. **Ingunn Valtýsdóttir** knows her from earlier times, and they had a joyous reunion. See also Morgunblaðið newspaper from Dec. 13th, 2015 (mbl.is). There you can read an interview with Örn on his collection of old articles, of Icelandic origin, found in the USA and Canada, and his dedication of bringing them “back home”.

Claire Eckley hosted the reception at the Springhill Hotel. She is the president of *The Icelandic American Association of Minnesota* (IAAMN), and first vice president of *The Icelandic National League of North America*.

Day 12 – Monday, June 24

We had a few hours to inspect The Mall of America, and to pay a visit to Minneapolis and St. Paul. And so we did! **Nína** and **Margrét** bought iPads in the Mall and we took the train down town. That was an easy ride. First a shuttle to The Mall of America, and then a city train to town. It couldn't be better. We took a walk into town, and found a fine restaurant that served real cappuccino. At the appropriate time **Gylfi**, **Nína** and **Svava** had to take the train back to the hotel and onward to the airport, on the other side of the road. They were soon back in Iceland.

The Laugardalsætt tour was a success. Thanks to our hosts in North Dakota and Manitoba, our tour guide **Almar Grímsson**, our driver **Don Rudolph**, the good spirits within the group, and the tour committee.

End of story. **Margrét** and I stayed two more nights at the hotel. The second part of our America trip was to begin.

Már Viðar Másson

Oct. 18, 2013

Dec. 11, 2013

Jan. 18, 2016

TOUR COMMITTEE

Sigurður Hermundarson
Már Viðar Másson
Jóhann Ólafsson
Gylfi Kristinsson

SOME MORE INTERESTING SITES

⇒Charlie Thorson, of Icelandic origin, animated Snow White http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Thorson

Here is more about Charlie Thorson <http://inlofna.org/Biographies/Thorson%20Charles%201..docx>

⇒Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis www.guthrietheater.org

⇒Mill City Museum in Minneapolis www.millcitymuseum.org

⇒Science Museum of Minnesota www.smm.org

⇒Icelandic State Park in North Dakota www.ndparks.com

⇒The Icelandic National League of North America (INLNA) <http://www.inlofna.org/> was established in 1919 as a non-political, cultural organization. The INLNA strives to preserve the Icelandic heritage, culture and traditions our Icelandic pioneer forefathers brought to this continent;

-by promoting cooperation among Icelandic cultural groups across North America

-and maintaining kinship ties with the people of Iceland.

INLNA maintains a head office, an email address, (inl@mymts.net) a website, a facebook presence, has regular executive meetings, annual conventions and offers a variety of programs/activities for it's members to participate in, such as:

International Visit Tours (to/from Iceland/North America), Icelandic Heritage Calendar, INL Reads Program, Donald K. Johnson Film Screening Program, Icelandic Settlement Tours Program, INL T-Shirts, and other programs as they are developed. In addition INLNA maintains a large email distribution 'list' for easy sharing of Icelandic news, information, projects, and activities.

The Icelandic National League of North America is compiled of various groups and individuals from across the United States and Canada. The categories of involvement are:

-Chapter/Club Membership

-Associate Membership

-Individual Membership

-Provisional Membership

-Honorary Members. (Almar Grimsson was the honorary member for the year 2011).

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Icelandic National League of North America, INLNA.

Icelandic National League of Iceland, Þjóðræknisfélags Íslendinga.

INLNA ORGANIZATIONS:

Blaine Icelandic Heritage Society, Blaine, WA
Brúin Chapter. Selkirk, MB
Esjan Chapter, Arborg MB
Fargo-Moorhead Icelandic Klub, MN
Friends of Iceland, Ottawa ON
Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society, Gimli, MB
Icelandic Association of Washington, DC
Icelandic American Association of Minnesota
Icelandic Association of Chicago
Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton, Norðurljós, Edmonton AB
Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Icelandic Canadian Club of Western Manitoba, Brandon, MB
Icelandic Canadian Frón Winnipeg, MB
Icelandic Care Home Höfn Society, Vancouver, BC
Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle, Seattle, WA
Icelandic Communities Association, Mountain, ND
Icelandic Online Club
Icelandic Hekla Club of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Icelanders of Victoria Club, Victoria, BC
Icelandic River Heritage Sites, Inc., Riverton, MB
Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary, Calgary, AB
Lestrarfélagið Gleym-mér-ei, Winnipeg, MB
Lundar Chapter, Lundar, Manitoba
New Iceland Heritage Museum, Gimli, MB
Stephan G. Stephanson Icelandic Society, Markerville, AB
Vatnabyggð Icelandic Club of Saskatchewan

THANKS TO

As I did not myself keep a diary, others had to participate. **Almar Grímsson** knows the people and the area better than other Icelanders (except for Atli Ásmundsson perhaps), and spent much time in adding to this composition. **Gylfi** added the story of the “connection between Sir William and Laugardalsætt”, and made some corrections, as did more people. **Allan Johnson** read the report and offered a lot of corrections and brought in new names and memories. He even corrected my English, where that was a must. **Haraldine** brought in some names in the Langruth chapter, and she added to the story of the cemetery at Westbourne .
Thank you very much!

To the reader. I hope you appreciate the effort. I will, myself, present this little story to Vesturfarar, those I can get into contact with, as a small gesture of gratitude. Any errors are my responsibility. Please let me know if you come over any.

ARRANGEMENT

Preparation for this tour of Laugardalsætt began ca. three years ago, under the guidance of Gylfi Kristinsson and others in the society's board. It was then early this spring (2013) that the team of Sigurður Kristinn Hermundarson, Jóhann Ólafsson, Gylfi Kristinsson and myself, pushed the ship afloat. We decided soon to bring **Almar Grímsson** on board, after suggestions. Very soon thereafter we decided to hire Bændaferðir to do the practical arrangements. Almar already had contacts with them, especially **Jónas Þór**. *This proved to be very rewarding!* Almar was extraordinary, and Bændaferðir knew exactly how to do this. All went well and the tour was a success.

Some people, many of Laugardalsætt, in the USA and Canada, did an admirable work in connecting the group with wonderful people in every little town we visited. And all the social gatherings, often with food included, were supervised by them. Thank you very much! Your contribution was appreciated.

TRAVELLERS

Plus Kristinn Gylfason, the Laugardalsætt's site organizer, and Sigurður Kristinn Hermundarson, who helped us get the tour going. Sigurður is also a genealogist.

Agnar Björnsson (spouse)	agnar.bjornsson@gmail.com
Almar Grímsson (tour leader)	almar1604@gmail.com
Ásmundur Jakobsson 1a2a3a4g5c6a	AsmJak@rarik.is
Erlingur Sigvaldason 1c2a3a4a5a6c7b	Erlingur@live.com
Ester Jónsdóttir 1a2b3d4d5c6c	jonov@islandia.is
Fanný B. Miiller Jóhannsdóttir 1b2b3a4c5a6a7b	fannymiiller@gmail.com
Guðfinna E. Guðmundsdóttir 1a2a3c4b5a6c	gudfinnag@internet.is
Guðrún Pálsdóttir 1a2e3g4b5k6a7a8a	gudrunpals91@gmail.com
Gylfi Kristinsson 1a2d3i4b5b6a or 1a2e3d4a5e6a	gylfi@askur.org
Halldóra Baldursdóttir 1a2e3g4b5k6a	agnar.bjornsson@gmail.com
Heiðís Sigurðardóttir 1c2a3a4a5a6c	heiddis.sigurdardottir@advania.is
Heiðrún Sigurðardóttir 1c2a3a4a5a6d	heidrunsi@hotmail.com
Ingunn Erla Stefánsdóttir 1a2e3n4a5b	ragnheidurgudmundsdottir@gmail.com
Ingunn Valtýsdóttir 1a2e3n4i5a	ingunnogthorir@internet.is
Ingunn Erla Eiríksdóttir 1a2e3n4a5b6b7b	ingaeiriksdottir@gmail.com
Jarþrúður Lilja Daníelsdóttir 1a2d3g4c5e	jililja2008@gmail.com
Jóhann Ólafsson 1b2b3a4c5a6a	mons@simnet.is

Jón Ólafur Vilhjálmsson (spouse)	jonov@islandia.is
Jóna Rún Gunnarsdóttir (spouse)	jona.gunnarsdottir@sjova.is
Jónína Vala Kristinsdóttir spouse	joninav@hi.is
Kjartan Egilsson (spouse)	kjartane@internet.is
Kristinn B. Gylfason 1a2d3i4b5b6a7b or 1a2e3d4a5e6a7b	kristgy@askur.org
Mar Vidar Masson (spouse)	marvidar@simnet.is
Margret Olafsdóttir 1a2e3d4f5a6b	margretolaf@gmail.com
Margrét Reynisdóttir 1a2e3g4b5k6a7a	agnar.bjornsson@gmail.com
Ragnar Már Kjartansson 1a2a3c4b5a6c7a	kjartane@internet.is
Ragnheiður Guðmundsdóttir 1a2e3n4a5b6b	ragnheidurgudmundsdottir@gmail.com
Sigurður K. Hermundarson 1a2c3c4a5b6d	sigurdurhe@simnet.is
Sigurður R. Jónmundsson 1a2d3g4c5a6a	sigurdur.jonmundsson@sjova.is
Svava Steinunn Ingimundardóttir 1c2a3a4a5a	heiddis.sigurdardottir@advania.is
Úlfar Guðmundsson 1a2e3h4n5a	ulfar.gudmundsson@kirkjan.is
Þórir Ólafsson (spouse)	ingunnogthorir@internet.is

HOW THE TRAVELLERS ARE LINKED

Laugardalsætt is underlined

See name tags' list

Agnar og Margrét R. Halldóra is Margrét's mother. Guðrún is Margrét's daughter.

Almar was single.

Ásmundur was single.

Gylfi and Jónína (Nína).

Heiðrún and Heiðdís are sisters. Svava is their mother. Erlingur is Heiðdís' son.

Ingunn Erla is the mother of Ragnheiður and the grandmother of young Ingunn.

Jóhann is the father of Fanný.

Jón and Ester.

Kjartan and Guðfinna. Ragnar is their son.

Jarþrúður Lilja was single.

Már (Mar) and Margrét Ó. (Margret O.).

Sigurður and Jóna.

Þórir and Ingunn V.

Úlfar was single.

FAMILY/FJÖLSKYLDA

Eins og greinar á tré
vöxum við í ýmsar áttir,
en við eigum sömu rætur.

THE ROOTS

Descendants of **Katrín Eyjólfsdóttir** and **Þorleifur Guðmundsson**

First and second generations only

See the books or the web for further knowledge

1a Eyjólfur Þorleifsson

- 2a Katrín
- 2b Jórunn
- 2c Þorleifur
- 2d Magnús
- 2e Eyjólfur
- 2f Bjarni
- 2g Guðrún
- 2h Guðmundur
- 2i Erlendur
- 2j Guðrún
- 2k Kolbeinn
- 2l Sigríður
- 2m Erlendur
- 2n Margrét
- 2o Ragnheiður

1b Dýrfinna Þorleifsdóttir

- 2a Þorleifur
- 2b Jórunn
- 2c Guðrún

1c Guðmundur Þorleifsson

- 2a Þorgerður
- 2b Þorleifur
- 2f Guðrún
- 2h Kristín
- 2i Kristín

1d Guðrún Þorleifsdóttir

- 2a Guðný

1e Erlendur Þorleifsson

- 2a Ólafur

NAME TAGS' LINEAGE TABLE
 Descendants of **Þorleifur** and **Katrín**

All travellers of Laugardalsætt listed (underlined)

Vesturfara listed by the Winnipeg Family Reunion's Tag group (1-24)

There are many more – these are samples

nn listings by me

01. Not related

	1a	2a	3a	4g	5c	6a		
14. → Eyjólfur→	Katrín→	Magnús→	Steinunn→	Sigríður→	<u>Ásmundur</u>			
		3c	4b	5a	6c	7a		
20. → Eyjólfur→	Katrín→	Katrín→	Andrés→	Guðm.→	<u>Guðfinna→</u>	<u>Ragnar Már</u>		
	2b	3d	4d	5c	6c			
15. → Eyjólfur→	Jórunn→	Bóthildur→	Ragnhildur→	Jón→	<u>Ester</u>			
	2d	3d						
09. → Eyjólfur→	Magnús→	Guðrún Freeman						
		3f	4c					
10. → Eyjólfur→	Magnús→	Ragnheiður→	Jenny Guðrún Einarsson					
		3g	4c	5a	6a			
nn.→ Eyjólfur→	Magnús→	Magnús→	Daníel→	Hulda→	<u>Sigurður Rúnar</u>			
				5e				
19. → Eyjólfur→	Magnús→	Magnús→	Daníel→	<u>Jarþrúður Lilja</u>				
		3i	4b	5b	6a			
21. → Eyjólfur→	Magnús→	Runólfur→	Guðm.→	Auður→	<u>Gylfi</u>			
	2e	3d	4f	5a	6b			
16. → Eyjólfur→	Eyjólfur→	Brynjólfur→	Magnús→	Ólafur→	<u>Margrét Ó.</u>			
		3g	4b	5k	6a	7a	8a	
18. → Eyjólfur→	Eyjólfur→	Guðmundur→	Guðrún→	Margrét→	<u>Halldóra→</u>	<u>Margrét R.</u>	<u>Guðrún</u>	
		3h	4d					
23. → Eyjólfur→	Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Gudrún Eyjolfsson					
			4n	5a				
nn. → Eyjólfur→	Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Guðm.→	<u>Úlfar</u>				
		3n	4a	5b	6b	7b		
22. → Eyjólfur→	Eyjólfur→	Ingunn→	Ragnheiður→	<u>Ingunn Erla→</u>	<u>Ragnheiður→</u>	<u>Ingunn Erla</u>		
			4i	5a				
nn. → Eyjólfur→	Eyjólfur→	Ingunn→	Sigríður→	<u>Ingunn Valtýsdóttir</u>				
		3s						
11. → Eyjólfur→	Eyjólfur→	Ágúst and Guðrún Eyjolfsson						
	2g	3c	4d	5a				
02. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Gudfinna→	Guðjón→	John Thordarson				
			4i	5a	6b			
nn. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Gudfinna→	Gordon→	Philip→	Theresa Thordarson			
		3d						
08. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Eyjólfur Thompson (Tómasson)						
		3e	4e	5a	6bcd			
03. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Ragnheiður→	Þorsteinn→	Violet→	David, Donna & Wayne			
		3f	4c	5d				
04. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Guðrún→	Kristín→	Dennis Bodvar Sigurdson				

nn. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Guðrún→	4d Jónína→	5c Haraldine Gudrun Magnusson-Webb		
nn. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Guðrún→	4f Haraldur→	5a Allan M. Johnson		
nn. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Guðrún→	4h Archibald→	5d Jonas Eric Johnson		
05. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Bjarni Thompson	3g			
06. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Katrin→	3h 4c Ólafur W. →	5a Gudjon→	6d Blair C. Olafson (Narrows)	
07. → Eyjólfur→	Guðrún→	Guðrún Bardal	3j			
24. → Eyjólfur→	Erlendur→	Sigríður	2i 3o 4b Guðbergur	5f Ron(ald) Johnson		
13. → Dýrfinna→	Jórunn→	Kristín→	1b 2b 3a 4c Jórunn→	5a Ólafur→	6a <u>Jóhann</u> →	7b <u>Fanný</u>
12. → Dýrfinna→	Jórunn→	Magnús→	3b 4a Ingibjörg→	5a Baldur Magnus Olson		
17. → Guðm.→	Þorgerður→	Steinunn→	1c 2a 3a 4a Ingimundur→	5a <u>Svava</u> →	6cd <u>Heiðdís</u> → & <u>Heiðrún</u>	7b <u>Erlingur</u>

MORE E-MAILS

- ⇒Allan Johnson (and Joanne) from Ottawa amjohnson@videotron.ca was in the reception team. He was one of the main contributors to the big Winnipeg family reunion.
- ⇒Bud T.J. Johnson, author budtjohnson@yahoo.com a cousin of Allan Johnson.
- ⇒David Bissky bissky@telus.net from Vancouver was in the reception team. He was one of the main contributors to the big Winnipeg reunion.
- ⇒Colleen Johnson Rogala from Winnipeg
- ⇒David Bissky from Winnipeg, brother of Donna and Wayne.
- ⇒Dennis B. Sigurdson from Winnipeg dbsigurdson@shaw.ca was in the reception team. He and his daughter, Catherine (Cathy) Burke, were among the main contributors to the big Winnipeg reunion cburke@mymts.net
- ⇒Donna Crozier donnagc@datacardalberta.com from Alberta was in the reception team. She was one of the main contributors to the big Winnipeg reunion. Donna made the *nametags* for the reunion. She was in Iceland in 2012. Her husband is Greg Crozier gregc@datacardalberta.com
- ⇒Haraldine Magnusson Webb rhwebb@mts.net Scandinavian Centre in Winnipeg. She met with the Icelandic group in Winnipeg and in Langruth.
- ⇒Lil Walraven, 1333 Hurford Ave., Courtenay, B.C., V9N 8K9 whippetlady@shaw.ca wants to be in a connection with Icelanders.
- ⇒Phyllis Thordarson is thordarsonhealth@live.ca
- ⇒Ron (and Barb) Johnson president of the Icelandic Canadian club FRÓN in Winnipeg. He was at the reception with Consul General of Iceland Hjálmar W. Hannesson and his wife Anna Birgis. ronbarjohns@shaw.ca
- ⇒Sharon krakowka@shaw.ca is the granddaughter of Verma Zahorodny.
- ⇒Susan turnersue@mts.ne born Lynn Eyjólfsson. Guðrún Grímsdóttir was her great grandmother.
- ⇒Wayne Bissky station411@me.com Wayne lives in Vancouver. He did not make it to meet with us in Winnipeg. "I am an architect, husband, father and grandfather, originally from the Canadian prairies, now living in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia". His mother was Violet Helga Thorsteinson. Her parents were Sigurbjörg Ragnhildur Magnúsdóttir (born 1896 in Mjoifjordur, Iceland) and Thorstein Olafur Thorsteinson (born 1897 in Birch Island, Manitoba). Wayne's sister is **Donna** Crozier, and his brother **David** Bissky. They were in Winnipeg.

AND FINALLY

The participants of the America trip of 2013 met on September 4th for a photo-show and the refreshing of fine memories. Some were eager to start planning for the next tour, now to Alberta and British Columbia. But that is another story.

My tour-photos are on Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/marvidar/sets in 6 sets. *Take a look!*

The Laugardalsætt's web is <http://laugardalur.org> Corrections can be sent at: nidjatal@askur.org