

Project Goal

Many of us felt recognition was needed for the role these pioneers played in the history of Norway and the United States, as well as California. To provide this recognition, a Viking-like monument stone (called "bauta" or "bautastein" in Norwegian) was sent from their ancestral land of Norway to be placed at the gravesite of Jacob and Serena in Napa. Engraved text and plaque will document the significance of the individuals buried there.

Progress

In February 2003 a stone was chosen from the Slogvik farm and Norwegian TV picked up the story. NRK did a television segment on the stone and the Slooper Monument Project. Photos of this are linked to the Slooper Monument Project web site.

This stone weighs about 1.5 tons – is approximately 9 feet high by 3 feet wide by 1 foot thick.

In June, 2003, the stone was shipped from the Slogvik farm to travel from Haugesund to Oslo and then on to the San Francisco Bay Area where it arrived 2½ months later. Tysvær Kommune (local government), Tysvær Historielag (Historical Society) & the Slogviks paid for the shipping to the US. A California monument company, Turlock Marble & Granite Works, which is owned by a Norwegian-American family, has received and is processing the stone. Stone sculptor Ira Kessey is carving a sloop image on the stone. Plans are underway to have this stone on display at the San Francisco Norway Day Festival on May 8-9. The stone will be installed at the Napa Tulocay Cemetery the following week.

Invitation

Everyone is invited to join us and our visiting Norwegian friends at Napa on Saturday, May 15th, for a festive day of dedication ceremony, parade and pageantry -- ending with a fine evening banquet and program at the Napa Elks Lodge.

VISIT THIS WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS & HOW YOU CAN HELP:
http://www.wheelerfolk.org/slooper/slooper_monument_project.htm

or go to: <http://www.wheelerfolk.org> & click on:

Slooper Monument Project - The Ship & The Stone

Slooper Monument Project

proposed for the
Tulocay Cemetery, Napa, California



Einar Slogvik stands by the stone sent from his Tysvær, Rogal and, Norway, farm to California to mark the grave site of "Sloopers" Jakob Anderson Slogvik and his wife Serena Madl and. These Norwegian-American immigration pioneers came in 1825 on the sloop *Restoration* and settled further west than any of the others in this historic group.

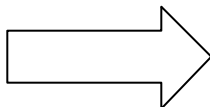
CONTACT: Keith Wheeler, SR Box 91A, Mad River CA 95552
(707) 574-6595 okwheeler@saber.net

Background

Jakob Anderson Slogvig (Slogvik) and his wife Serena (Serine) Tormodsdatter Madland were both born in the early 1800's in southwestern Norway. As young people they were aboard the small sloop *Restoration* which sailed in 1825 with a group of emigrants from Norway to America. **The *Restoration* is often called the "Norwegian Mayflower,"** as these folks were religious dissidents seeking religious freedom much like their English Pilgrim forbearers. The subsequent success of this emigrant group eventually led to major immigration which was of historical importance both to Norway and to the United States. **Those aboard the sloop *Restoration* and their descendants are often called "Sloopers."**

Jakob, taking the Americanized name of Jacob Anderson, married Serena in upstate New York where these emigrants first settled. He moved his family west in the 1830's to be one of the first families to settle in the historically significant Fox River Settlement of Illinois. In 1848 they moved farther west to southwestern Iowa where they had a large fertile farm. In 1854 the family moved west again, this time to Soscol, an early community just south of the town of Napa in northern California. Here Jacob developed a new farm and lived there with his family until his death in 1864. He was buried in the Tulocay Cemetery in the town of Napa. In his 1961 book, *The Sloopers*, J. Hart Rosdail points out that **Jacob died "farther from his native Norway than any other who came over on the Sloop"** (p. 425).

[See Map for westward movement.]



Jacob's wife Serena then lived mostly with their son Andrew and his wife. After living in several parts of Iowa and California, Serena died in 1898 on the large Anderson ranch west of Willows in the Sacramento Valley of northern California. She was laid to rest beside her husband and youngest son in the Napa Tulocay Cemetery.

Visiting this Napa cemetery today, one can find one simple stone for these 3 members of this historic family. It is a large plot with room for more burials, but the descendants moved from this area and subsequent families have chosen not to be buried here. While the engraving on the stone states that both Jacob and Serene were born in Norway, **there is no further indication that they were pioneers in Norwegian-American immigration.**

Jacob and Serena are the great great grandparents of Keith Wheeler of Mad River, California, USA, just one of their many descendants. For more information on these Sloopers, and for links for more general Sloop information, visit the **"Slooper Monument Project"** web site at: http://www.wheelerfolk.org/slooper/slooper_monument_project.htm

