



Royal Connections to Luther College and Vesterheim

This is the eighth time members of the Norwegian Royal Family have visited Luther College and the fifth time by a reigning monarch.

May 6-7, 1939

Crown Prince Olav and his wife, Princess Märtha, stayed in Decorah while on their first United State tour. The Crown Prince brought gifts for the Norwegian-American Historical Museum, now Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, from the National Association of Museums in Norway. While they were in Decorah, Luther College conferred an honorary degree upon the Crown Prince.

October 6, 1965

Crown Prince Harald , now King Harald V, visited Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum and Luther College, where an honorary degree was conferred upon him.

May 4, 1968

King Olav V visited Luther College and Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

October 14, 1975

King Olav V visited Luther College as it laid the cornerstone for the Center for Faith and Life. The King then participated in the dedication ceremonies at the newly restored Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

November 28, 1987

King Olav V visited Luther College and Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

October 19, 1995

King Harald V and Queen Sonja visited Luther College and Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

June 10, 1999

Crown Prince Haakon visited Decorah for the city's sesquicentennial celebration. The visit included a tour of Luther College and Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. The Crown Prince dedicated Vesterheim's Amdal-Odland Heritage Center.

October 13, 2011

King Harald V and Queen Sonja will visit Decorah as part of Luther's sesquicentennial celebration. Queen Sonja will preside at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Vesterheim's new Asbjørnsen Gallery.