

Collection Name:

Gudbrandsdalslag papers, 1909-2009

Collection Number:

P0465 (Gudbrandsdalslag)

Extent:

2.0 cubic feet (5 archives boxes)

About Gudbrandsdalslag:

Gudbrandsdalslaget in America organized in Minneapolis, September 12, 1909. The first stevne occurred in Minneapolis, September 6, 1908. In 1925 they reported about 3,500 members.

Past presidents of the Gudbrandsdalslag i Amerika include:

Rev. Lars P. Thorkveen (1909-23)
Rev. M. Casper Johnshoy (1923-44)
Rev. J. Walter Johnshoy (1947)
Ole J. Kommen (1947-48)
Olaf Viken (1948-59, 1962-67)
Rev. Joseph Belgum (1959-60)
Dr. Magnus Dahlen (1960-62)
John P. Hegge (1962-71)
Lincoln Neprud (1971-72)
Lloyd George Melgard (1973-)

Past secretaries include:

Ivar Olstad (1909-16)
Samuel Jackson (1916-34)
Simon Johnson (1916-23)
Eilev O. Bakke (1923-30, 1934-40s)
A.H. Bakken (1947-48)
Einar Amundson (1848-50)
Dorothy Teigen (1950-67)
Gladys Prestegard (1967-)

Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag organized at Minot, North Dakota, June 3, 1930. 218 members registered at the first stevne.

Past presidents of the Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag include:

F.L. Larson (1930-37)
Christian Loften (1937-39)
John Brostuen (1938)
Einar H. Dahl (1939-47)
John Aasmundstad (1947-51)
John K. Myhre (1951-54)
Thor Dahl (1954-57)
Thorstein Haugom (1957-61)
Alfred Tofte (1961-65)
C. Leslie Haugen (1965-67)
Tillie Yahn (1967-)

Past secretaries include:

P.H. Baukol (1930)
Oluf Erikson (1930-32)
Olaf Otheim (1932-38)
Christian E. Lee (1938-57)
Betsy Dahl (1957-58)
C. Leslie Haugen (1958-63)
Luella Haugom (1963-)

The Eau Claire Gudbrandsdalslage organized in 1918. Their president was John Ovren (1918) and secretary was Mrs. K.A. Jacobson (1918). Gudbrandsdalslaget "Kringen" organized in Minneapolis on February 3, 1906. The society was local to Minneapolis. Gudbrandsdalslaget "Heimhug" organized in Seattle Washington, November 33, 1908.

History of the Bygdelag:

Papers of "bygd" societies and their Common Council ("Bygdelagenes Fellesraad"); clippings; constitutions; correspondence; minutes and financial records; pamphlets; pictures; programs; and reports; dealing with conventions; officers; special projects; and the Norse-American Centennial of 1925. The bygdelag; organized around the turn of the century; are societies based on regional origins in Norway. They were active in the Eidsvoll Centennial in 1914 and the Norse-American Centennial in 1925. While activity dropped off after the beginning of World War II; a revival began in the 1980s as a result of renewal of ethnic interest; and with emphasis on family history. Odd S. Lovoll's "A Folk Epic; The Bygdelag in America" (NAHA; 1975); which includes a bibliography of lag publications.

Papers of the various "bygdelag;" "social organizations of (Americans) from the same homeland district; usually rural" which began in 1899 with the organization of the Valdres Samband. About fifty other lag with national-wide appeal were formed; as well as many others which were more local. They held annual "stevner" (meetings) and many published periodicals; yearbooks; or monographs which often contained extensive genealogical materials. A decline came after World War II; with a revival in the 1970s particularly through renewed emphasis on genealogical research.

A Council of Bygdelags (Bygdelagenes Faellesraad) coordinates activities of the groups. They were very active in the Eidsvoll centennial celebrations in 1914; and the Norse-American Centennial in 1925. Holdings for the various lag vary; but usually include clippings of newspaper articles about their meetings; correspondence; programs; and copies of their publications; duplicates of library holdings; in the periodical and book collections (monographs and annuals included in the latter). In some cases regional associations are included with the national groups; and in others separate groups which later merged are included under the merged name.

Access Rights:

This collection is open to research.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. Gudbrandsdalslag Papers (Bygdelagenes Papers). Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
10	1	Yearbooks, no. 3-8, circa 1913-1920
10	2	Yearbooks, no. 9-12, circa 1921-1924
10	3	Yearbooks, 1925-1926 and 1948 Includes: "Gudbrandsdal Årbog," ("Gudbrandsdal Yearbook"), no. 13-14, 1925-1926; "Årbok for Gudbrandsdalen" ("Yearbook for Gudbrandsdalen"), 1948.
10	4	Yearbooks, 1950
10	5	Yearbooks, 1949
10	6	Yearbooks, 2009
11	1	Glåmdalen, and Dølaringen Yearbooks, 1911-1947
11	2	Dølaringen Yearbooks, 1930-1932
11	3	Yearbooks, 1959 and 1962
11	4	Yearbooks, 1955
11	5	Secretary's Reports and Stevne Records, 1981-1997
11	6	Secretary's Reports and Stevne Records, 1959-1960
12	1	Secretary's Reports and Stevne Records, 1961-1969
12	2	Secretary's Reports and Stevne Records, 1970-1977
12	3	Secretary's Reports and Stevne Records, 1978-1980
12	4	Correspondence, February 1934
12	5	Gudbrandsdalslaget i Amerika, 1909-1959
12	6	90th Anniversary Yearbook, 1999
12	7	Articles/clippings
12	8	Translation of Meetings of the Gudbrandsdalslag of the Twin Cities, 1926-1928
12	9	Gudbrandsdal, Trøndelag, and Northern Hedmark Joint-Stevne Booklet, 2012

12	10	Newsletters and magazine, 2002-2005
13	1	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag historical sketch and correspondence, circa 1930-1932 and 1969
13	2	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag correspondence, attendance, and financial records, 1930
13	3	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag clippings, programs, and correspondence, 1912-1973
13	4	Clippings, newsletters, and programs, circa 1910-1964
13	5	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag newspaper clippings, 1908-1955 Includes: Minneapolis Tidende, Decorah-Posten, Nordmanden
13	6	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag constitution, programs, and writings, 1930-1940 Attendee/member lists, constitution, programs/newsletters/accounts of stevnes, newspaper clippings, writings on history.
13	7	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag programs, clippings, and correspondence, 1941-1956
13	8	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag programs, clippings, and correspondence, 1957-1968
14	1	Northwest Gudbrandsdalslag programs, correspondence, and clippings, 1962-1968 and 1983
14	2	Brev (Newsletter), 1997-2002
14	3	National stevner and history, 2004-2005
14	4	National stevner and history, 2006
14	5	National stevner and history, 2007
14	6	National stevner and history, 2008
14	7	National stevner and history, (Centennial), 2009
14	8	National stevner and history, (Centennial), 2009
15	1	National stevner and history, 1998-1999
15	2	National stevner and history, 2000-2002
15	3	National stevner and history, 2003
15	4	National stevner and history, 1909-1929
15	5	National stevner and history, 1930-1958
Oversized		Scrapbook, circa 1960-1990