

**Collection Name:**

Opdalslag papers, 1920-2020

**Collection Number:**

P0465 (Opdalslag)

**Extent:**

1.2 cubic feet (3 archives boxes)

**About Opdalslag:**

The West Coast Oppdalslag (Opdalslagets Vestre Avdeling) was organized at Woodland Park, Seattle, Washington, August 1, 1920. Past presidents included L.E. Haugen (1920) and Ericka Robertson (1951). Past secretaries included Eric H. Loe (1920) and Kristine Haugen (1951). Eric H. Loe edited and collected much of the materials in the annuals for 1922, 1923, and 1925. The Eastern Oppdalslag (Opdalslagets Østre Avdeling) was organized in Centerville, South Dakota, July 26, 1925.

Past presidents include:

Rev. P.P. Hagen (1925-27)

A.H. Hagen (1927-29)

Rev. John B. Reese (1929-34)

Martin Bjørlo (1934-)

Past secretaries include:

Pauline Vognild (1925-32)

S.O. Vognild (1932-)

Editors of the yearbooks:

Rev. P.P. Haugen

Kristine Haugen

H.B. Reese

**History of the Bygdslag:**

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 bygdslag, 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 Bygdslag 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]. Opdalslag Papers (Bygdelagenes Papers). Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 69         | 7             | Clippings, photograph, and yearbook, 1923-1929                                                                                                                                         |
| 74         |               | Yearbook, 1921-2018                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 75         | 1             | Pamphlets, 1929-1938<br>Includes Femti Aars Fest for Meldahl Menighet (1928), Fiftieth Anniversary Meldahl Lutheran Ladies Aid (1938), En beretning om 65 aars oplevelse i Syd Dakota. |
| 75         | 2             | Opdalslag photographs, circa 2000                                                                                                                                                      |
| 75         | 3             | Cookbook, 2013                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 75         | 4             | Reunion banquet, August 31, 2002                                                                                                                                                       |
| 75         | 5             | Opdalslag, Scandia in Centerville, South Dakota, September 6, 2008                                                                                                                     |
| 75         | 6-9           | Opdalslag festival at Scandia Lutheran, September 12, 2009                                                                                                                             |
| 75         | 10-18         | CD recordings of Stevne, 2009, 2010, 2015                                                                                                                                              |
| 76         | 1-4           | History booklet, 2003-2020<br>Includes newsletters, photographs, clippings, histories.                                                                                                 |
| 76         | 5-10          | VHS tapes of trips to Norway and reunions, 2003-2004, 2006-2007                                                                                                                        |
| 76         | 11-13         | Panoramic photographs of stevne, circa 1920                                                                                                                                            |
| 77         |               | Opdalslag banner                                                                                                                                                                       |