

Collection Name:

Sons of Norway and Daughters of Norway papers, 1907-2004

Collection Number:

P0591

Extent:

20.4 cubic feet (33 archives boxes, 2 record center cartons and 1 flat box)
3 oversized scrapbooks

History/Biography:

Sons of Norway/Sønner av Norge was founded by 18 members on January 16, 1895, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to provide life insurance to its members. Membership was originally open to males of Norwegian descent between the ages of 20 and 50 who were capable of giving proof of being morally upright, in good health, and capable of supporting a family. A second lodge was established in South Minneapolis in 1899 and a third was founded in the northeastern section of the city in 1900. The Minneapolis model quickly spread. By the end of 1900, lodges had been established in cities and towns with substantial Norwegian-American populations across the United States.

The organization published a monthly magazine, Sønner av Norge (Sons of Norway), which kept members updated on activities of the group.

In December 1938, the Sons of Norway absorbed the American auxiliary of The Knights of the White Cross Order (Riddere av Det Hvite Kors) which had been founded in Chicago in 1863. Women were admitted to local groups as early as 1916, in areas where the female auxiliary was unorganized. Daughters of Norway lodges in the Midwest were merged with the Sons of Norway in 1950 and a system of junior lodges was created in 1956. The Grand Lodge of the Daughters of Norway, which dates to 1908, continues as a separate association.

Scope and Content:

Correspondence, clippings, pamphlets, constitutions, reports, newsletters, souvenir programs, and historical sketches of a variety of Sons of Norway lodges in the United States, including the Supreme Lodge in Minneapolis. Also includes records from the Daughters of Norway.

Access Rights:

This collection is open to research.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. Son of Norway and Daughters of Norway Papers.
Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
		Correspondence
1	1	1909-1911
1	2	1911-1912
1	3	1912 June 1-1912 August 31
1	4	1912 September 12-1912 October 23
1	5	1912 November 4-1913 March 31
1	6	1913
1	7	1913-1914
1	8	1914-1917
1	9	Nidaros Lodge correspondence and minutes, 1920-1941
1	10	Miscellaneous, 1935-2004
2	1	Auditors' monthly reports, 1929-1930
2	2	Reports, 1911-1919
		Reports and souvenir programs
2	3	1913-1926
2	4	1927-1930
2	5	1931-1936
2	6	1939-1940
2	7	1942-1945
2	8	1946-1947
2	9	1950-1970
3	1	First District, 1911-2015 Kindseth, Jeff and Carol Lozon, editors. "Norwegian American Heritage: Recipes and History from Kenyon, Goodhue County, Minnesota" (Faribault, MN.: Sons of Norway Kenyon Viking Lodge #1-487, 2015). 79-page softcover saddle stitch bound volume.
3	2	Second District, 1908-1962
3	3	Third District, 1912-1995 Includes Einar Bredland's history, 1995.
3	4	Fourth District, 1914-1946
3	5	Fifth District, 1914-1977
4	1	Miscellaneous, 1902-1940 "History of Nordlyset Lodge #13, Minneapolis, 1902-1933" by E. Klaveness, 1940; Norse-American Centennial guestbook, 1925; 3 photographs (Supreme Lodge, Madison, 1926; Nordlyset, May 1925; Nordlyset Lodge #13, Saen, Noreg Studio, 1919).
4	2-3	Reports, 1917-1919, 1938-1943
5		"Norway Journal" issues, 1908-1966

Clippings

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 5 | 1 | 1900-1909 |
| 5 | 2 | 1910-1919 |
| 5 | 3 | 1920-1929 |
| 5 | 4 | 1930-1939 |
| 5 | 5 | 1940-1995 |
| 6 | 2 | Centennial materials, 1994-1995
Includes 2 videotapes, "100 years of Heritage" (running time: 16:46. Produced by Fresh Pictures, Minneapolis, MN. 1994) |
| 6 | 3 | Histories, 1900-1909
Includes Bent Vanberg's "Sons of Norway" |
| 6 | 4 | Songbooks by Carsten Woll, 1934 |
| 7 | 1 | General brochures, catalog, and medal, 1911-1991 |
| 7 | 4 | Alaska lodges, 1913-1949 |
| 7 | 5 | California lodges, 1909-1987 |
| 7 | 6 | Illinois lodges, 1910-1973 |
| 7 | 7 | Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson Lodge in Chicago, 1909-1986 |
| 7 | 8 | Skjold Lodge in Chicago, 1974-1983 |
| 8 | 1 | Iowa lodges, 1920-1928 |
| 8 | 2 | Michigan lodges, 1929 |
| 8 | 15 | Montana lodges, 1916-1930 |
| 8 | 16 | Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island lodges, 1915-1946 |
| 8 | 17 | New lodges, 1912-1929 |
| 8 | 18 | New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania lodges, 1911-1949 |
| 8 | 19 | North Dakota lodges, 1909-2014
Preserving Our Heritage: Kringen Lodge #25—Sons of Norway, Fargo, North Dakota directories: 1993 & 2005. Added Dec. 8, 2014: Daughters of Norway, Rosanna Gutterud Johnsrud Lodge No. 53 (Fargo, N.D., est. 2014). |
| 7 | 3 | South Dakota lodges, 1994
"Norwegian Quilt Patterns. Fjordland Lodge 1-508, Sons of Norway, Brookings, South Dakota, 1994. In 1986, Fjordland Lodge 1-508, quilted a Norwegian quilt featuring patterns included in this booklet. In commemoration of the Centennial Anniversary of Sons of Norway International, it was their desire to share these patterns with other lodges and individuals. Artist: Melody Schaefer Vanderpan. |
| 9 | 1 | Oregon, Washington, Idaho lodges, 1908-2014
"Leif Erikson Lodge No. 1, SON Seattle, WA" (1998-99 95th anniversary membership directory). Includes 95th anniversary membership directory of the Leif Erikson Lodge No. 1, Seattle, Washington (1998-99); added "100th Anniversary book of Leif Erickson Lodge 2-001, Sons of Norway Seattle, WA. 1903-2003"; |

added April 9, 2012: "Fram, Forward into the future celebrating 100 years of District 2, Sons of Norway 1910-2010" (pictorial history, DVD); added Aug. 18, 2015: 2014 membership directory for Leif Erickson Lodge 2-001.

- 9 2 Wisconsin lodges, 1908-1978
- 9 3 Canada lodges, 1911-2013
Solglyt Lodge No. 143, Edmonton, Alberta: The First 100 years (1913-2013); Lawrence Herzog, "Sons of Norway" [History of Solglyt Lodge No. 143 and Gilbert Berg] (Edmonton Heritage Council's Herzog Heritage, April 11, 2013).
- 12 Newsletters and directories from various lodges, 1981-2005
Including Skaugum Lodge 468, Stamford, Ct.
- 15 Norwegian language lessons, Norwegian cultural skills program, and Heritage history series, 1991
Includes audio cassettes.
- 16 Nora 5-414 Lodge, 1959-1989
2431 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois). Includes: financials (1959-1983); treasurer notebook (1972-1989); minutes (1978-1989).
See: [Nora Lodge No. 1, Knights of the White Cross](#) in 1863 (P0653). Merged with the Sons of Norway in 1938.
- 18 Mandt Lodge, Stoughton, Wisconsin records
Includes correspondence, circa 1970, notebooks, and minutes with clippings (1939-1965).
- 19 Norrtun Lodge pins collected by Haaken Haugen

Minnesota lodges

- Minneapolis/Saint Paul
- 8 3 Miscellaneous, 1940-1955
- 8 4 Dovre/Halden, 1908-1935
- 8 5 Nidaros, 1912-1940
- 8 6 Nora, 1909-1911
- 8 7 Nordkap, 1902-1952
- 8 8 Nordlyset, 1909-1936
- 8 9 Norumbega, 1921-1933
- 8 10 Oslo, 1906-1939
- 8 11 Vonheim, 1929-1946
- 8 13 Miscellaneous towns, 1911-1995
- 8 14 Nordmarka Lodge (Northfield) newsletters, 2010-2012
- 10 St. Cloud, Odo, Christiania, 1985-2004
Miscellaneous newsletters. Christiania News, 1999-2004; The Troll, 1995-2004; 90th Anniversary Calendar, 1895-1985.
- 11 Northfield, Nordmarka Lodge, 1985-2012

- Miscellaneous. Members lists, 1990-2005; "Hi-Lites," 1985-2005, 2010-2012.
- 13 Duluth, 2005-2006
Includes "Norwegians Uniting in Duluth: A Century of Norwegian American Organizational Life," by Chris Susag & Mari Trine (2006, 77 pgs & compact disk of photos). The project reviews some of the Norwegian-Americans groups which existed in Duluth, Minnesota over the last 100 years. These groups include the Sons of Norway lodge, the Sons of Norway Junior Lodge, The Daughters of Norway, Norden's Daughter's Choir, and the Nordmanna Men's Choir. A brief history of the groups and their activities are listed. Includes as part of the project a collection of oral interviews. Those interviewed: Mary Jane Jensen, Margaret G. Rodwold, Bente Soderlind, Arlene Anderson, Edel Mauritzen, Nancy K. St. Marie, Shirley M. Boe, Clifford Boe, Irene R. Thomson, Wesley Neustel, Egil Hoivik, Gudrun Hoivik, Alma Ramfjord, Robert Ramfjord, Deloris McNaughton. Added November 2010: A collection of Nortun Lodge pins collected by Haaken Haugen ca. 1905-1930. (Donated by Lorraine Haugen)
- 14 Minnesota Lodges newsletters, 2007-2017
Includes: "The Troll" (Trollheim Lodge 1-511, St. Cloud, Minn.), 2007-2017 [see box *7B for earlier editions]; "Haarfager Herald" (Haarfager Lodge #40, Gilbert, Minn.), 2015-2016; Tusenvann Lodge 1-659, Mora, Minn.), 2014; and "Nyheter Fra Vennekretsen" (Vennekretsen Lodge 1-559, Anoka, Minn.), 2014-2017.
- 17 Skreia/Snorre, 1917-1960
Includes material: set of ribbons, events, clippings, history, conventions, Leif Erikson Monument, minutes and membership, photographs and songbooks.

Oslo Lodge #2, Minneapolis, Minnesota

- | | | |
|---|-------|---|
| 1 | 1 | Social Club 25th anniversary, 1966 |
| 1 | 2 | Record book, circa 1940 |
| 1 | 3 | Photographs |
| 1 | 4 | Jubilee and centennial celebrations |
| 1 | 5 | Oslo Social Club, 1941-1966 |
| 1 | 6 | Record book, circa 1930 |
| 1 | 7 | Lodge picnic, Medicine Lake, 1982 |
| 1 | 8 | 1st District Convention photographs, Ames, IA, 1982 |
| 1 | 9 | Installation of offices photographs, 1983 |
| 1 | 10 | Las Vegas night photographs, 1986 |
| 1 | 11-12 | Various photographs |

1	13	Centennial anniversary party photographs, 1999
1	14	Oslo #2 and Vonhein 108 dinner photographs, 1995
1	15	Axel VAI honor ceremony, 1999
2	1	Membership register, 1899-1957
2	2	Oslo #2 hat and ski bib
2	3	Various oversized photographs
3		Minutes, 1899-1964
4		Minutes, 1910-1999 Missing minutes from 1974-1980) Centennial observation minutes and notes (1999); Oslo Heiman books (1936-1941), Norway Hall records; minutes of Sons & Daughters Building Association, Inc. (1954-1957); collected WW II correspondence and short essays (1941-43). Including: Arthur P. Joy, Oscar W. Johnson, Jr., Martin Solheim, Le Roy Joy, Kasper Olson, Howard Hansen, Kennet S. Kollen, gustav Svendsen, Harvey Brekke, Dr. A.H. Brekke, Hans thorsdalen, Alf M. Haley, Ralph Sather, John J. Cleveland, Chester Iverson, Melvin Romfo, William Anderson, Ralph Olberg, Paul Johnson, Eleanor Jacobsen (army nurse). "Our pioneers," by Olaf R. Kelly (parents from Dombaas, Dovre, in Gulbrandsdalen, Sogn & Tronhjem, Norway), emigrated in 1867, homesteaded in Bandon Township, Renville County, MN. Mentions grasshopper plague of 1874.; "The Forgotten Heroes. The Men of the Merchant Marine," by Max M. Herseth (1943); "Story of a Man Taking his Wife to the Bowling Alleys," by John Hausery; poem dedicated to the members in the armed forces (1943); "Speed skating," by Melvin Romfo (1942); "Delirium," by John L. Werness; "Reminiscent" travelogue of Harriet Helmersen; notes on pioneer life by Hazel I. Underdahl (1942). Recounts life in the Bad Lands, Slope County, North Dakota. Ca. 1909. Mentions lignite coal mines, destroying eagle eggs.; notes on Notre Dame, Indiana by Arnold L. Cleveland; essay on Knute Nelson by John Bekkevold (1942); "Popular Norwegian Poems in English Translation," (translated by Gunnstein (Gus) Rystad, 1974).
5-9		Financial secretary membership record books, 1901-1983
10		Oversized photographs

Runic Vennskap, Alexandria, Minnesota

1	1-10	Newsletters, photographs, and miscellaneous materials, 200-2016
1	11	Rating forms, certificates, photos and miscellaneous materia, 1995-2011
2	1	Photographs, circa 1997
2	2	Record book, 1982-1987
2	3	Record book, 1973-1981

2	4	Visitors registry
2	5	Photographs, 1986
2	6	Plaque, 2003
2	7	Officer and member directories, 1976-2008
2	8	Newsletter, 2006-2011
2	9	Newsletter information
2	10	Newsletter and correspondence, 2010
2	11	Newsletter and correspondence, 2011
2	12	Rental agreements
2	13	Giving
2	14	Lodge history
2	15	Lodge evaluation
2	16	Treasurer's cash book, 1980-1986
2	17	District 1 convention pamphlets, 1984-2002
2	18	Publicity information
2	19-20	Notebooks, 1988-1997
2	21-23	"The Disrud Connection: Information, histories, maps and pictures with ancestors and descendants of Haldor Olsen Diserud and Sigrid Olsdatter Kosbole," 2009
3	1	Correspondence, 2011
3	2	Expo information, undated
3	3	Foundation manual
3	4	District 1 lodge information
3	5	Sons of Norway Viking resource, 2008-2011
3	6	Sons of Norway Guide for Leadership
4	1	Runic Venenskap scholarship applications
4	2	Stationary
4	3	Lodge information, 1998-2003
4	4	Lodge information, 2004
4	5	Membership list, 2001
4	6	Directory, 2005
4	7	Directory, 2006
4	8	Directory, 2007
4	9	Directory, 2008
4	10	Directory, 2009
4	11	Directory, 2010
4	12	Directory, 2011
4	13	Job descriptions
4	14	District correspondence, 2004
4	15	Directory, 2003
4	16	Newsletters, 2011
4	17	Resources, 2010
4	18	Ceremonies

4	19	Directory, 2017
4	20	By-laws, 2010
5-7		Oversized scrapbooks, 1973-1996

Nidaros Lodge

1	1	History, constitutions, by-laws, 1920, 1959, 1966
1	2	Convention booklets, rosters, and pamphlets, 1970-2020
1	3	Secretary minutes, 1994-1999
1	4	Directory, 2014
1	5	Ritual books, 1910-1982
1	6-8	Songbooks, 1926-1967
1	9-15	Minutes, 1958 March 12-1987 November 17
1	16	Minutes, 2005
1	17	17 mai clippings
1	18	17 mai celebrations, 1998-2014
2	1-8	Records, 1898 July 7-1950 September 13
2	9	Record of applications, 1937-1966
3		Nesletters, 1987 January-2023 December

Daughters of Norway

Clippings

1	1	1902-1907
1	2	1908-1913
1	3	1914-1921
1	4	1922-1925
1	5	1926-1929
1	6	1929-1931
1	7	1932-1936
1	8	1937-1950
1	9	Constitution, 1902-1907 Includes 25th Convention banquet program (1939). Constitution and bylaws: volumes for 1901, 1903, 1915, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933-1934, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1958-60. Some years in Norwegian and English editions. Also included: anniversary publications, ritual, songbook. Includes clipping of 1933 history by Celia Swennes.
1	10	Periodicals, 1927-1951 Includes scattered issues of "Døtre af Norge"
1	11	Camilla Collett Lodge, 1929-1933
1	12	Photograph, 1927 Most likely the 19th meeting, Minot, ND.
2		Panoramic photographs, 1923-1935

Convention, La Crosse, Wisconsin, June 25-28, 1923;
Convention, Virginia, Minnesota, June 18-20, 1931; and National
Convention, Fargo, North Dakota, 1935.

3

Døtre af Norge newsletter