

Collection Name:

Agderlag papers, 1922-2000

Collection Number:

P0465 (Agderlag)

Extent:

1.5 cubic feet (4 archives boxes)

About Agderlag:

Agderlag is an organization of individuals with "roots" in the Agder region of Norway which is made up of the old fylke of Aust- and Vest-Agder including the Setesdal area. The lag originally organized at the State Fairgrounds on June 6, 1925 during the Norse-American Centennial. In 1926, they reported 188 members.

Past presidents included:

Rev. T. Tjornhom (1925-38)
Rev. Karl Stromme (1938-50)
Tom H.C. Gabrielson (1950-55)
Rev. Gabriel Gabrielsen (1955-1963)
REv. John T. Wayne (1963-)

Past secretaries included:

Wilhelm Pettersen (1925-27)
Reinert Tofteland (1927-31)
Thorvald Rudjord (1935-50)
Tilda Akersmyr Tofteland (1955-68)
Mrs. Toby Olson (1950-55, 1960-)

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 "bygdslag;" "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]. Agderlag Papers (Bygdelagenes Papers). Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Incorporation and By-Laws, 1925-1943
1	2	Treasurer Records, 1983-1991
1	3	Norsk Ungdom (Norwegian Youth), 1955
1	4	Newsletters, Programs, Correspondence, and Documents 1961-1998
1	5	Scrapbook Clippings/Newsletters, Programs, and Writings 1925-2000 Included: agderlaget ribbon, June 1938; Sange for Agderlaget (Songs for the Agderlag) (undated); Agder Script (newsletter) clipping (commemorating Morgan Olson (President of National Council of Bygdelags) + announcing membership dues), 1987; Referat fra Agderlaget (Account/Summary from The Agderlag), 1925; Agderlaget constitution notes, 1925; Forste referat, ikke blitt inngjort i boka ("First summary, not included in the book") (summary/account of the 1926 stevne); Agder Lagets Medlems List Forstevent in Luverne, Minn. June 11-12-13 ("The Agderlag's Member List The First Stevne in Luverne, Minn. June 11-12-13"); Agderlagets medlems list, første stevnet i Luverne, Mn., June 11,12,13 ("The Agderlag's Member List, The First Stevne in Luverne," registration list (unclear if it's a complete list of

members)); stevne programs 1966, 1968, 1975, 1977, 1983, 1985 (60th anniversary, with ribbons and name tag), 1987 (+ ticket), 1989 (+ ticket), 1991 (includes letter of thanks from agderlag officers & ticket), 1993 (includes ticket), 1995, and circa 1965; planning meeting attendance, August 1985; Chicago Man Elected Agder Lag President, 1950 (newspaper clipping); keepsake flag pamphlet (undated); Blue Mound Inn Catering placemat (undated); acknowledgement of Pastor Sven Thompson for his service as President of the Agderlag (handwritten + copy), September 1987; list of names, 1991; correspondence from [Mel] Van Buren, Secretary, November 1991; Biography of Pastor John T. Watne (undated); Agderlag sign-in paper, Sept 1995; correspondence between Esther and Rose (likely Rosa Tofteland Johnson) of her position as secretary of the Agderlag, undated; Celebration hopes to continue family ties between Norway, U.S. (newspaper clipping from Daily Globe, undated); "Kan du glemme..." bookmark, 1995; Pizza Ranch (list of names, 1997)

1 6 Scrapbook Clippings/Newsletters, Programs, and Documents 1987-2000
 Includes: Stevne programs, 1997, 1999, 2000; 1997 stevne account (attached to 1998 treasury records); Margaret Vegge "outstanding older worker" "award" (handwritten); account of the 2000 stevne; Blue Mound Inn menu (undated); printed illustration (undated, likely made by Rosa Tofteland); souvenir flag pamphlet (undated); ticket, 1985; 50th anniversary agderlaget ribbon (Rose Johnson), 1975; "...2000...The time has come...the Agderlag has given up...Takk for alt..." scrap; Agder Script newsletter (includes member list + list of resources for genealogy), 1987; Agder Script 1991 (includes highlights of the agderlag held on Sept 16 1989, remembrance of Gov. Karl Rolvaag, Sigurd Anderson, and King Olav, "Did you Know" segment, recipes from the Pioneer Cookbook)

1 7 Meeting Records 1927-2000

1 8 Attendees 1965-1968

1 9 Attendees 1969-1983

3 5 Attendees 1985-2000

2 1 Clippings, 1937-1991

Includes: "Kan du glemme..." bookmark (x2), 1995; commemorative pins (circa 1982-1999); remembrance for Sigurd Anderson and Governor Rolvaag (part of Agder-Script 1991); Normanden, December 1938; Worthington Daily Globe clipping, September 1985; Agderlag-Stevne (in Norwegian), 1937 clipping; Nordisk Tidende, December 1932; Toten Bulletin (copy), May 1979; America in the Making: A Series of Broadcasts by Val Bjornson (written on it: "April 9, 1940, Nazis invaded Norway &

2 2

Denmark” and ”To Tilda from State Treasurer Val Bjornson”);
Samleren #18, February 1946; 17 de Mai Minneapolis Posten
(1814-1952) supplement, #20 Minneapolis, Minn., May 1952
Clippings, circa 1910-1995

Includes: kirkebladet, 13 October 1943; “«En usynlig bro over havet»: «Agderlaget» i Luverne, Minn. holder stort stevne,” newspaper clipping, 18 juli 1947; Western Viking: Agderlag Stevne ‘95 marks 70th anniversary, 25 August 1995; “Johnson highlights 1989’s Agderlag” (letter to the editor from Rosa Tofteland Johnson, newspaper clipping, undated); kalender for bygdelaag, 2000; “Agderlaget had successful convention!” (newspaper clipping from Western Viking), 6 November 1987; “Johnson: Agderlag stevne,” 1983; “Agderlag-Stevnet” article (unknown source), 1937; Agderlag announcement, 1987; The Endowed Chair for Norwegian Studies pamphlet (Augustana College), undated; Jarle Foss of Yankton (violin/*fiola* player), “SD” article, 7 July 1988; “Old-time fiddling” clipping from Sioux Empire, undated; “Luverne has one of few variety stores” by Carols Olson (unknown source), undated; “Explore your Norwegian roots” pamphlet/advertisement; “Til Agderlaget” (possibly from Visergutten Publishing Company, Canton, South Dakota), 1927; extension of a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Jack Salvesson (formerly Sylvia Jensen of Luverne) Brooklyn, New York and Pastor + Mrs. Norman Olson, Mankato, Minn (former pastor of grace lutheran church); correspondence between John T Watne and Rosa Tofteland Johnson, undated; News of Norway, June 1996; Rock County Star Herald: Blue Mound Inn hosts Agderlaget, Sept. 21; memorial pamphlets for Kermit Helgerson and Trygve “Trig” Jarle Vegge; Johnson: All [illegible] came out for Agderlag (letter to the editor from Rosa Tofteland Johnson), 26 September 1991; keepsake flag pamphlet (undated); obituary for Dr. Robert Huseboe from Argusleader.com, undated; Voice of our readers: Johnson invites public to Norwegian gathering (letter to editor from RTJ), 24 September 1987); Rock County Star Herald: Group says Agderlag successful in Luverne (+ short letter to the editor from RTF: “Johnson: Thanks to Star Herald”), 19 September 1985; Norway Times/Norsk Tidende: A great Agderlag (includes phone numbers and names across the top), 29 October 1987; Humphrey: Emerged from heritage of high achievers in Doland (newspaper clipping); celebrating herbert humphrey from Argus Leader (newspaper clipping); “Passion for People propelled humphrey” (newspaper clipping), circa 2011; Rock County Star Herald: Former resident explains beauty, history of Norwegian bunads (written by Lily Tofteland Harmann, daughter of Tilda A. Tofteland

(one of the original members of Agderlag)), 12 September 1985; Agderlaget had successful convention (Western Viking) x2, 6 November 1987; Gen Norris Einertson appointed chief of all US Army chaplains; The Star Herald: Agderlag visitors travel 5,000 miles; Dr. Arthur Olsen appointed as new vice president and provost at Augustana, June 1981; Pictorial history of Sioux Falls written by Olson father-son team by Rosemary Fester, March 1986; Norwegians gather in Luverne Saturday (Worthington Daily Globe newspaper clipping, September 1985); newspaper clippings, circa 1910-1995

2	3	Correspondence, Newsletters, and Biographies circa 1925-1999
2	4	Members, 1926-1987
2	5	Membership Lists, circa 1922-1997 Includes an immigrant roster circa 1988-1989
2	6	Photographs 1950-87
3	1	Programs 1959-2000
3	2	Publications 1927-1991 Includes: Memo Book 1927 (member list), circa 1927; Sørlandet: En forening bestaaende av sørlændinger i Chicago og omegn) (in Norwegian), 1933; Selected Hymns for Conventions, 1919; Tysneslaget: Navneliste (name/member list), 1926; Syne-Marte: En Skildring fra 1840-aarenes kirkehistorie af O.A. Øverland, 1904; Bygdelagenes Fællesraad Incorporated: Aarbok og Julehilsen, 1929; Prolog - Norsk Ungdom, August 1974; Agder-Script, 1991
3	3	"Sørlandet" Society
3	4	Correspondence, Leadership Lists, and Clippings circa 1927-1995
94		Commemorative plate for Crown Princess Martha, circa 1954