

Collection Name:

Telelag papers, 1907-2017

Collection Number:

P0465 (Telelag)

Extent:

1.5 cubic feet (4 archives boxes)

About Telelag:

Organized in Fargo, North Dakota, January 16, 1907. Lag historians include Torkel Oftelie (1909-24, 1926) and N.N. Rønning (1938-53).

Past presidents include:

Rev. Bendik Bondahl (1907-09)
A.A. Trovaten (1909-19)
Hans Samuelson (1919-20)
Rev. J.O. Saeter (1922-23)
N.N. Rønning (1933-38)
J.N. Jacobson (1938-)
Ole A. Rusley (1949-50)
Knute Haddeland (1950-53)

Past secretaries include:

S.B. Salverson (1907-14)
N.N. Rønning (1914-16)
A.S. Houkom (1916-19)
Olav Ormbreck (1919-21)
Johanne Leifson (1921)
C.O. Teisberg
A.A. Rowberg (1949-50)
C.A. Clausen (1950-53)

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]. Telelag Papers (Bygdelagenes Papers). Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
45	8	"Telesoga" newsletter, 1918-1999 December 1911 ; September 1918; September 1921; 1951 (No. 3, Vol. 2); 1950 (No. 2, Vol. 2); 1953 (No. 5, Vol. 2); March 1924 1952 (No. 4, Vol. 2); 1952 (No. 4, Vol. 2); March 1995; November 1996; May 1997; December 1998; May 1999.
46	1	"Telesoga" newsletter, 1994, 2005
46	2	"Telesoga" and "Telemark Historie" book, 2008, 1984 "Telesoga" newsletter, May 2008; "Telemark Historie," Nr. 5, a periodical published by Telemark Historielag, 1984.
46	3	"Saude og Nesheringer i Amerika" book, undated Collected and published by Dr. J.K. Moen, undated.
46	4	Telemark Historielag "Tidsskrift," 1980
46	5	Telelag, 1907-2017 Stevne programs and advertisements; "Tiriltunga gamle Stev fraa Telemark," 1907; Constitution; "Hilsen til Telemark" by N.N.

Rønning, June 1927; “Telesoga” publication information, circa 1924; Account of the 1954 stevne by H.H. Haugen; “Festival of Emmigrants” pamphlet, July 1992; Tveit/Tvedt/Tweed/Twight family reunion, July 1993; “Skrifteregister for Holla Nedre Telemark”; Clippings; “Outline Map of Telemarken, Norway”; Bygdelag questionnaire filled out by Amund Roheim; Account of the 1987 stevne by Lorna Anderson; News release by Lorna Anderson, March 1992; Lists of Telemarkings (people who came from Telemark) and/or Telelag members, undated; “Telelaget TeleNews” fragments, pages 1-4, October 1996; “Festival of Emmigrants” reflection by Jan Einar, 1993.

Correspondence: Dr. Odd S. Lovoll; Dagny Dietrichson; Telelaget Members; Arnold H. Ness; Hans H. Haugen; Lorna Anderson; [Sam or Ian] Frye.

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| 46 | 6 | <p>“TeleNews” and genealogy/travel guide, 1988-2004</p> <p>“TeleNews” newsletter: May 1997; May 1998; November 1998; February 1999; March 2000; May 2000; August 2000; February 2001; June 2001; August 2001; May 2002; October 2002; March 2003; May 2003; February 2004; May 2004; December 2004; May 2005. Also includes registration and advertisements for stevnes; “Telemark Norway Genealogy and Travel Guide,” 1988.</p> |
| 46 | 7 | Clippings, 1910-1954 |
| 46 | 8 | <p>Reports, Telestevne, and Telesoga, 1933-1954</p> <p>Stevne (meeting) programs/menus; stevne (meeting) sign-in sheets; list of “Telers” (people from Telemark and/or people with ancestors from Telemark) who served in government; list of resolutions from a Telelaget meeting by K.K. Solberg and Mrs. W.O. Storlie, 24-25 June 1936; correspondence: N.N. Ronning, H.H. Haugen; stevne (meeting) notes/personal notes; “Fortegnelse over de by- og bygdebeskrivelser over kommuner i Telemark fylke som er innsamlet i 1937 av fylkesfullmektig K. Hagerup Knutson, Skien, og sendt til telelagene i Amerika gjennom formannen i Telelagene i U.S.A. hr. redaktør N.N. Rønning” (“List of the town and village descriptions of municipalities in Telemark County that are gathered in 1937 by county[‘s] representative K. Hagerup Knutson, Skien, and sent to the Telelags in America through the president [of] the Telelags in [the] U.S.A., hr. editor N.N. Rønning”), 1937; facts/notes about Telemark from “Telesoga”; list of dues; writing fragments by T.H. Haugen (including “Ein Liten Blom - Jule Fantasi” (“A Little [Flower?] - Christmas Fantasy”), “Telemarksvisa” (“Telemarks’ Song”), and an untitled reflection on the Norwegian language in America), circa 1954; “Hans H. Haugen” article from Telesoga,</p> |

2nd edition, no. 4, 1952; "Northwest Telelaga History 1917-1953,"
rewritten from a history by H.H. Haugen, 1953; "Telestevne"
ribbon, 5-6 October 1937.

47	1	Clippings, 1950-1958
47	2	Clippings, 1907-1997 1911 newspaper clipping announcing the gathering of "Tinnsio-Laget" ("The Tinnsio Lag"), a gathering of immigrants from Tinn and Gransherred; "Telelaget i USA" ("The Telelag in [the] U.S.A." by Lorna Anderson, from Telemark Historie, no. 8, 1987.
47	3	"Telelaget: The First One Hundred Years, 1907-1997" By Telelaget of America, 1997.
47	4	Telemark to America Volume III: Settlements, Biographies, and Telemark Lore," by Telelaget of America, 2011.
73	4	"The Telelaget Society" photograph, September 1951
92	24-28	Secretary's journal, 1997-2023