

**Collection Name:**

Sognefjordlag papers, 1979-2007

Collection Number:

P0465 (Sognefjordlag)

Extent:

0.4 cubic feet (1 archives box)

About Sognefjordlag:

The Sognefjordlag was organized on October 7, 1979 at the Sugar Creek Bible Camp in rural Ferryville, Wisconsin.

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

Box	Folder	Description
42	1	Sognefjordlaget, circa 1980-1995 Includes: three Sognefjordlaget informational pamphlets written in a mix of English and Norwegian; "Fjordland Bladet" ("The Fjordland Newspaper"), Sogn and Fjordane/Sognefjordlaget newsletter, includes program information/stevne schedules, Winter 1980-1995; stevne (meeting) programs; reservation slips/stevne invitations; "motel possibilities" information sheet, 1980; "Uranienborg School Brass Band" ticket, 28 June 1980; accounts of stevnes; membership card; Sognefjordlaget "Culture Tours" Program, 1992; "Sogn - Norway and USA Turn Into A New Epoch" letters/articles addressed to Lloyd Hustvedt, 19 December 1993 and 22 December 1995.
42	2	Sognefjordlaget, 2005-2007 Includes: "Fjordland Bladet" ("The Fjordland Newspaper"), Winter 2006-Spring 2007; board meeting notes; correspondence: Rosalie News, Kathryn E. Johnson, board members; financial reports.
42	3	Sognefjordlaget, 2000-2004 Includes: "Fjordland Bladet" ("The Fjordland Newspaper"), January 2000-Fall 2005; financial reports; "stemne" (meeting) programs; board meeting notes; Sognefjordlag membership application; correspondence: Ardis Bolstad, Judy-Wayne, Alan-Louise, Kathy, Rodney, Chuck-Barb, Rosalie Allen, Cathy-Tim, David J. Ostrem, Edie Syftestad, Charles Hylsether, Catherine Ofte, Rosaline Ness, Erling Bjornetun, Harry Bolstad, Chuck Morkri* (*all names are from email aliases, so some may be incomplete or inaccurate); list of board members, 2000-2001; Sognefjordlag Constitution.
42	4	Sognefjordlaget, 1997-2000 Includes: accounts of "stemnes" (meetings); financial reports; "Fjordland Bladet" ("The Fjordland Newspaper"), March-April 1997-Summer 1999; board meeting notes; stevne in Sogndal, Norway tour plans, 3-16 August, 1999; "stemne" (meeting) programs; "Year-end 1999 Memo from Bygdelagenes Fellesraad"; correspondence: David Ostrem, Sognefjordlag Board Members; "Sognefjordlag Officers," 1999, 1999-2000; "Decorah Selected for 1999 <i>Bygdelag</i> Celebration," memo, 19 May 1997.

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| 42 | 5 | <p>Sognefjordlaget, 1992-1996</p> <p>Includes: "Fjordland Bladet" ("The Fjordland Newspaper"), Winter 1992-December 1996; board meeting notes; accounts of "stemnes" (meetings); two copies of the Sognefjordlaget Consitution with handwritten additions; correspondence: Ms. Judy K. Gates, Jean Dickman, Charles W. Hulsether (on behalf of Sognefjordlaget in America, via fax); financial reports; advertisement for "The Luster County Farm and Family History Book," 1994; "Officers Names and Addresses-1995"; list of historians and musicians; "Fellesraad Survey from Sognefjord Lag," 26 July 1993; "Norwegian-Americans to Celebrate 150th Anniversary of Immigration Movement" news release, circa 1993-1994.</p> |
| 42 | 6 | <p>Sognefjordlaget Secretaries' Book, 1979-1997</p> |
| 42 | 7 | <p>Sognefjordlaget, circa 1984-2006</p> <p>Includes: "Fjordland Bladet" ("The Fjordland Newspaper"), circa 1984-1999; stemne (meeting) programs; correspondence: Roxanne Felde, Erling Bjørnetun, Wayne & Judy Gates; list of stevne guests, historians, and performers; "Soughton will host national Sognefjordlaget Stemne" newspaper article; Nordic Fest Map; map of Stoughton, Wisconsin; financial reports; Sognefjordlaget in America membership card, 1984 and 1985.</p> |