



**Collection Name:**

Vosselag papers, 1857-2007

**Collection Number:**

P0465 (Vosselag)

**Extent:**

1.2 cubic feet (3 archives boxes)

**About Vosselag:**

Organized at Albert Lea, Minnesota, June 24, 1909. Two other Vosselag's formed, one in Minneapolis (1924) and another in Madison, Wisconsin (1911). Lag historian was Knut A. Rene.

Past presidents include:

Knude Henderson Løne (1909-10)

S.A. Nelson (1910-11)

Lars W. Boe (1911-13)

Rev. A. Øfstedal (1913-14)

Andrew Grindeland 1914-19)

Rev. K. Bjorgo (1919-20)

William Nelson (1920-24)

Gov. R.A. Nestos (1924-25)

Arthur Markve (1925-32, 1937-40)

Arthur F. Giere (1932-37)

A.A. Kindem (1940-47)

Andrew Highland (1947-48)

Stephen White (1948-49)

Sievert Dymbe (1949-69)

Johannes Sherven (1949-)

Past secretaries include:

T.L. Righeim (1909-10)

L.L. Torgerson (1910-14)

Arthur Markve (1914-17, 1918-20)

Lars W. Boe (1917-18)

Knute A. Rene (1920-47)

Knute Edahl (1947-49)

Sivert P. Shelvik (1949-55)

John Eide (1955-)

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

| Box | Folder | Description                                                |
|-----|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 63  |        | Vosselag and Vestlandslag member lists, circa 1971         |
| 63  |        | Meeting notes and financial records, 1957, 1963-1965, 1971 |
| 64  | 3      | Minutes (account and dues paid), 1909-1916                 |
| 64  | 4      | Clippings and pamphlets, 1911 June 23-1926                 |
| 64  | 5      | Notebook and minutes, 1922-1940                            |
| 64  | 6      | Minutes, 1944-1958                                         |
| 64  | 7      | Vossingen, 1920-1928                                       |

|    |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 64 | 8   | Records, circa 1904<br>Photocopy of "Voss og Vosserne: Natur, Folkeliv og Folketro" by Th. S. Haukenæs, cover page and pages 8-11 and 14-21, 1904; photocopy of "Gammelt og Nyt fra Voss og Vossetranden" by Th. S. Haukenæs, cover page and pages 50-71 and 182-199, 1896. |
| 64 | 8   | Wossingen, 1857-1860                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 64 | 9   | Viking project letter, 1991                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 65 | 1   | Annual meeting records, 1975                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 65 | 2   | Board records, 1986-1993                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 65 | 3   | Financial records, circa 1975                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 65 | 4-5 | History, circa 1970-circa 1989                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 65 | 6   | Minutes, 1958-1959                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 65 | 7   | Correspondence, 1998                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 65 | 8   | Photographs, undated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 65 | 9   | Songs, undated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 65 | 10  | Correspondence, 1999                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 66 |     | "People History of the Hallinglag of America 1907-2007" by Jackie Marler                                                                                                                                                                                                    |