

# Valdres Samband Welcomes You!



*The Oldest and Largest Bygdelag  
in America  
Founded in 1899*

*Members in 42 States,  
District of Columbia, Canada,  
Norway, and Sweden*

## Valdres Rose



The Valdres rose, frequently displayed on barns in Valdres, has many variations. This design was shown at the Valdres Samband centennial celebration in Valdres and is used by Valdres Samband members Kris and Kim Lerohl in their business SigvatDesigns.

The Valdres rosemaling (rose painting) inside this brochure is characteristic of Valdres. Marked by its style and colors, such as burnt sienna (rusty red), olive green, and yellow, this design was created by Valdres Samband member Shirley Evenstad.

### *Visit us on the Internet. . .*

for current information about the Samband including genealogy, membership, annual stevnes, Samband history, book orders, and links to Norwegian-related Web sites.

**<http://www.valdressamband.org>**

For information about bygdelags for other areas in Norway, visit the Fellesraad Web site.

**<http://www.fellesraad.com>**

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Glen Olson, Secretary  
21 - 21st Avenue North  
Hopkins, MN 55343-6922

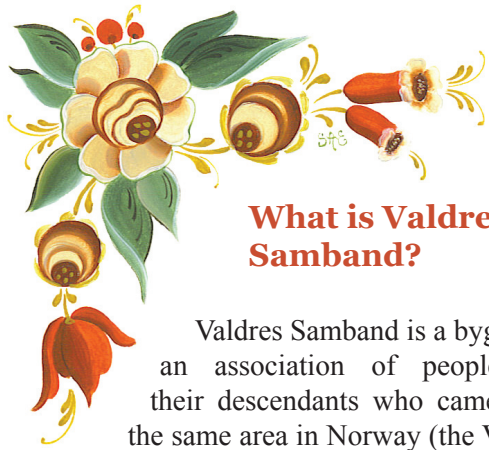
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dues in United States: \$13.00 per year, 3 years for \$35.00. Dues outside the United States: \$18.00 per year, \$50 for 3 years in U.S. funds. Memberships include husband, wife and minor children. Members receive the Valdres Samband magazine: *Budstikken*



## What is Valdres Samband?

Valdres Samband is a bygdslag, an association of people and their descendants who came from the same area in Norway (the Valdres Valley). *Valdres* identifies the area; *Samband* is a union or bond. The bygdslag was organized to gather, preserve, and impart knowledge of the Valdres Valley and people of Valdres origin—to keep alive their common traditions, foster knowledge of ancestry, and cherish their ancestral home. Family research is an important part of its agenda.

## Where is Valdres?

Valdres is a part of Oppland Fylke and lies approximately in the center of Norway’s broadest part, a little over 100 miles northwest of Oslo. To its north stand the Jotunheimen (home of the giants) Mountains, barren granite peaks from which melting snows run down steep falls to fill Valdres’ Begna River, coursing from its source in northern Vang to Spirillen Lake just outside the southeast border. Valdres is forested and has a long history of logging as well as farming. Norway’s main highway artery from Oslo to the Jotunheimen Pass follows the Begna River through Valdres’ picturesque valley.

## Benefits of Membership in the Valdres Samband

### 1. Roots

Valdres Samband has an extensive archive of genealogical resources about emigrants from Valdres. It includes thousands of family questionnaires, as well as scores of family histories, copious genealogical books for various areas of Valdres, church records on microfilm and microfiche, and passenger lists.

### 2. Stevne

Annual convention of members and friends, usually held in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota or South Dakota. It is like a huge family reunion. The stevne is held on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in June. A genealogical workshop is “serious business” for family members. Resources of Valdres Samband are many and available to those searching Valdres roots. Members and friends are encouraged to attend the stevne and take part in the activities. Entertainment emphasizes ethnic traditions—music, dance, food and crafts.

### 3. Publications

Valdres Samband has been publishing since 1903! *Budstikken* is a magazine which began in 1970 and is sent to all Valdres Samband members semiannually. It is packed with wonderful stories about Norwegian heritage—the people and their activities, church histories, settlements, legends, culture and events, as well as information regarding activities of the Valdres Samband, its stevnes, resources, and searches for family history. . . .

. . . If you know people with roots from Valdres who are not yet a member, why not invite them to join? Or better yet, give them a one-year gift membership for which they will receive and read the *Budstikken* and learn about the organization and, hopefully, will continue that membership on their own!

## Some Recent Publications of the Valdres Samband:

*People of the Valdres Samband, 1899-1984*, 1984, an update of nearly 600 family questionnaires since the 75th Anniversary commemorative book.

*95th Anniversary Valdres Samband, 1899-1994, A Review of the Last Decade*, 1994, has updated history of the Valdres Samband and 514 genealogy listings.

*The Centennial Period of the Valdres Samband, 1994-2004*, 2005, an update of the last decade including the centennial stevnes in Willmar and Fagernes. Includes 383 family entries.

*Voices of the Valdres Samband*, 2004, a DVD with video excerpts of members speaking about the Valdres Samband. Topics include stevnes, publications, genealogy, and trips to Norway.

