

# Bjug Aanondson Harstad Papers, 1848-1933

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Harstad, Bjug A. (Bjug Aanondsen), 1848-1933
<b>Title</b>	Bjug Aanondson Harstad Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1848-1933 (inclusive) 1848 1933
<b>Quantity</b>	6.5 linear feet, (6 boxes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	OPVARCH_rg2/1
<b>Summary</b>	Papers of founder and first president of Pacific Lutheran University. Papers also include information on the Aanondson/Harstad family and of the Norwegian Synod
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Pacific Lutheran University, Archives and Special Collections</a> Archives and Special Collections Pacific Lutheran University 12180 Park Avenue South Tacoma, Washington 98447 Telephone: 253-535-7586 Fax: 253-535-7315 <a href="mailto:archives@plu.edu">archives@plu.edu</a>
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Historical Note

The founder of Pacific Lutheran University, Bjug Aanondson was born on December 17, 1848 on a farm named Harstad in Valle, Setesdal, Norway. His father was Aanond Tellefson AAKre and his mother was Torbjør Kittilsdatter Harstad. He was one of ten children and they lived on a farm called Gangshei above Harstad. His family was very poor. Young Bjug took care of the cattle at the family farm during the winter months and in the mountains during the summer months. Bjug and his family emigrated to America in 1861 and settled in Illinois and Minnesota. He continued his education in the US and was accepted as a student at Luther College in 1865. It was there that he changed his last name to Harstad upon a suggestion of the president of the college. He studied theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis from 1871 to 1874 and it was his experiences there that became the model for the rest of Bjug's scholarly and religious life. After seminary, he traveled as a pastor to remote places in Minnesota where he built schools and churches. Bjug Harstad was married February 14, 1877 to Guro Omlid in Minnesota. She was a native of Valle and was born September 29, 1858. In 1889, the church sent Bjug Harstad to the Pacific Coast. He visited Portland, Seattle and Tacoma and when he returned to Minnesota, it was decided that Brookdale, as Parkland was called then, should be the important Lutheran education center of the Northwest. The Pacific Lutheran University Association was incorporated December 11, 1890 with Bjug Harstad as president. The cornerstone for the first building, Old Main, was laid October 4, 1891. The occasion of the cornerstone was a grand event. Several Lutheran pastors spoke both in Norwegian and in English and the president of the Norwegian Synod sent greetings with his hope that the undertaking would succeed. Old Main was renamed Harstad Hall in 1960 in honor of Bjug Harstad. In 1917 the Norwegian Synod that Pacific Lutheran University was founded under, merged with the United Church, and the Hauge Synod to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. Harstad refused to join the new Norwegian Lutheran Church, thus

formally separating himself from the school he had founded. Bjug Aanondson Harstad died on 20 June 1933 at age 84. His wife Guro, eight of his children, and eleven grandchildren survived him.

## Content Description

The collection includes family records, correspondence, photographs and some oral histories.

## Administrative Information

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### Detailed Description of the Collection

#### Harstad family and Bjug Harstad's writings, 1866-1935

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
1/1	Bjug Harstad's grades and class schedule from Luther College	1866
1/2	Til hvem det maatte angå ( To whom it May Concern) Bjug Harstad writes of his youth	1929
1/3	Early family history, reminiscences and Pioneer Prattle by Bjug Harstad	undated
1/4	Celebration of the silver wedding anniversary of Bjug and Guro Harstad including a speech given by Tobias Larson to the bridal couple Includes a translation to English by Adolph Hartstadas in 1986	1902
1/5	Tacoman celebrates 53 years as a pastor: A clipping concerning the family getting together after 17 years to celebrate the event	1927
1/6	Whither are we drifting? A story about a Bjug Harstad sermon	1928
1/7	A brief history of Valle Saetersdal and of some families from there by Bjug Harstad	1930
1/8	Bjug Harstad obituary	1932
1/9	A tribute to Rev. and Mrs. Harstad including a note written about Guro by her daughters	1933

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
1/9a	Four-Minute Man Certificate of Honor given to Bjug Harstad A copy of a Certificate of Honor presented to Rev. B. Harstad on the occasion of his honorable discharge from the service of the United State and In recognition of Loyal and Devoted Service as a Four-Minute Man of the Committee on Public Information during the War of 1917-1918. File also includes a copy of a letter from th White House signed by president Woodrow Wilson concerning the Four Minute Men	1917-1918
<b>Bjug and Guro Harstad's children</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
1/10	Aanond Theodore Harstad and his family. Aanond was the oldest surviving child of Bjug and Guro Harstad	n.d.
1/11	Correspondence between Esther Thune and Adolph Harstad regarding Bjug Harstad biography Esther Thune's research regarding her Grandfather Bjug Harstad. Esther is the daughter of Aanond Theodore Harstad	1955-1981
1/12	Rough drafts concerning Bjug Harstad biography	1955-1981
1/13	Clippings concerning the Harstad family and Pacific Lutheran University	1955-1981
1/14	Thune family geneaology and obituaries	undated
1/15	A reunion of Bjug and Guro Harstad's granddaughters	1988
1/16	The White Picket Fence by Esther Thune & Threshes, Schools and Ships by Hartford Thune Esther writes about her childhood in Parkland and outlying areas	1982
1/17	Oliver Harstad, an obituary	1978
1/18	Oscar Theander (O.T.) Harstad Life story of Oscar Theander (O.T.) Harstad	1892-1985
1/19	Louise and Lydia Harstad's trip to Norway	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/20	An autobiography by Adolph Marius Harstad	1981
1/22	Fifty Years as a family Golden Wedding Celebration of Martha and Adolph Harstad at Parkland on August 6-13, 1981	1931-1981
1/21	Adolph Harstad correspondence	1960-1986
<b>Box</b>		
1/23	The Rev. & Mrs Bjug Harstad and their Descendants by Adolph M. Harstad	1977

## Harstad Heritage Up-Date, 1984

Harstad, Ardyce

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
2/1	Gro Aanondsdaughter Harstad, Volume I "Gro Aanondsdaughter Harstad was born Oc.2, 1831, in Valle Norway and came to Seneca, Illinois in 1861; she was married in 1865 to Thore Jutland of Arendahl, in Arendahl, Fillmore County, Minnesota. Gro died Dec. 26 1884 and Thore died Oct. 5, 1901 both are buried in Arendahl Cemetery. They had five children. Their second child Knute Edward (1) died when he was about 4 months old and is also buried in Arendahl Cemetery. Knute Edward (2) changed his last name to Knutson and Aanond Owen changed is last name to Knudson.	1831-1884
2/2	Kittil Aanondson Harstad, volume II "Kittil Aanondson Harstad, citizen name Charles Anderson born at Valle, Saetersdal, Norway, Feb. 19,1834 came to Seneca, LaSalle County, Illinois in 1854; was in the South in Mississippi and Louisian a year or two before the Civil War, came back to Seneca, came to Greenfield, Fillmore County, Minn. in 1865; married in Arendahl, Nov 27, 1866 to Mrs. Eli Fjeldstad, widow, maiden name Eli Knudsdaughter Espetvedt, born in Espetvedt in Saetersdal, Norway, March 14, 1837. Kittil died at the home of his son Ole, near Mayville, March 1, 1915 buried in North Prairie Cemetery, Fillmore County, Minn. Kittil and Eli had seven children."	1834-1915
2/3	Tollef Aanondson Harstad, volume III	1836-1907

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<p>"Tollef Aanondson Harstad was the third child of Aanond Tellefson Harstad and Torbjor Kittilsdaughter Harstad and was born June 16, 1836 in Saetersdal, Norway. He married there in May of 1861 to Margit Salvesdaughter Nomeland, also born in Saetersdak, Norway, Aug. 2, 1840. They came to Seneca, LaSalle County, Illinois in 1861 and settled later at Greenfield, (now Harmony) Minnesota, Fillmore county in 1867. Tollef died Dec. 9, 1907 and about two and one half months later, Feb. 20, 1908 Margit also passed away. They are both at rest in Greenfield (Harmony) Cemetery. They had eleven children."</p>	
2/4	<p>Gjermund Aanondson Harstad, volume IV          "Gjermund Aanondson Harstad was born in Valle, Norway; emigrated to America in 1868, and after 1875 settled on land near Hillsboro, No. Da., and married there in March 1878 to Borhild Kittilsdaughter, also born in Norway. Gjermund served two terms as member of the North Dakota Legislature and as Judge of Probate of Traill county, No. Dak. In 1893 the family moved to Parkland, Washington where Borghild died from burns caused by an exploded lamp in the fall of 1897. They had eight children."</p>	1838-1924
2/5	<p>Ole Aanondson Harstad Anderson, volume V          "Ole A. Harstad Anderson was from his boyhood the best behaved and educated of all the six brothers, a conscientious and tender-hearted man who functioned as a reliable instructor and guide of the whole family. Ole Aanondson Harstad, citizen name Anderson, was born in Valle, Saetersdal, Norway and came to Seneca, La Salle county, Illinois, in 1861 and married in 1863 to Miss Anna Petersdaughter Helgeland, who was born in Stavanger, Norway in June of 1841. They farmed in LaSalle and Ford Counties, Illinois. Ole died Sept. 13, 1872 leaving Anna with four children, one son having preceded him in death. He was buried near Clifton, Ill. Anna passed away Sept. 18, 1897 and is buried in Harding LaSalle County, Illinois."</p>	1841-1872
2/6	<p>Tjodje Aanondson Harstad, volume VI          "Tjodje Aanondson Harstad, was born in Valle Saetersdal, Norway, June 16, 1843. He came to Seneca, Illinois in 1861, and to Fillmore county, Minnesota in 1864. He was married at Arendahl, Fillmore County, Minn. on Feb. 16, 1868 to Eli Oldsdaughter Homme, born in Saetersdal, Norway on Nov. 12, 1843, they resided a few years near Arendahl, later located near Porter, Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota. Here he served as Postmaster for some years. They moved from there to about twelve miles west of Portland, Steele County, North Dakota. In 1906, they moved to Bonetrail, Williams County,</p>	1843-1915

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	No. Dakota and took a homestead. In 1912, they moved to Parkland, Washington. Tjodje died there May 13, 1915 and is buried in Parkland Cemetery. The widow Eli went east to Williston No. Dak. and lived with her sone Ole. She died there March 13,1919 and is buried in Parkland, Washington Cemetery. they had eleven children. Three of Tjodje's children, Torbjor, Olaf and Nels died March 12,13,14,1882 respectively and were buried in one casket in the Porter, Minnesote Cemetery. Then Halvor died March 23, same year."	
2/7	Tone Aanondsdaughter Harstad, volume VII "Tone Aanondsdaughter Harstad was born in Saetersdal, Norway february 23, 1847 and came to Senneca Illinois in 1861; married Aug.3, 1866 to Andrew (Andreas) P. Helgeland at Greenfield, Fillmore County (now Harmony), Minnesota, and located there the same year. Andrew was born near Stavanger, Norway, Nov. 13,1844. They had seven children. Tone died at their hom near Harmony, Minn. Sept 2, 1883 and was buried in Greenfield Cemetery."	1847-1883
3/1	Bjug Aanondson Harstad, volum VIII "Bjug Aanondson Harstad was born Dec. 17, 1848 in Valle, Saetersdal, Norway, came with his parents to Seneca, Illinois in 1861 moved to Fillmore county, Minn. 1865 and entered Luther College, Decorah, Iowa in the fall that year, graduated there 1871, entering Concordia Theologicl seminary, St Louis, Mo. the same year from which he graduated in 1874. He immediatley accepted a call as missionary in the Red River Valley, north of the Fargo, N.D. Teritory, married Feb. 14 1877 to Miss Guro Svensdaughter Aamli (also written as Omlid) born Sept. 29 1858 in Aanebjor (Arneberg) Bygland, Saetersdal, Norway. In 1894 he founded Pacific Lutheran College serving as principal or teacher until 1899. He took part i the Nome gold rush hoping thus to aid the College, Bjug Harstad died June 20, 1933 at the age of 84. Bjug and his wife were parents of eleven children."	1848-1933
3/2	Ingeborg Aanondsdaughter Harstad and Birgit Aanondsdaughter Harstad, volume IX "Ingeborg Aanondsdaughter Harstad was born in Valle, Saetersdal, Norwy July 15, 1851; came to Seneca, Fillmore County in 1861, to Minnesota 1865, and to North Dakota some years later; married to Charles Matson, farmer of Crookston , Minn., November 21, 1877; he was born in Sweden, Oct 24 1844, came to the US in June 1868; located on a farm near Crookston, Minn. Moved to Parkland, Wash. in 1914, Ingeborg died July 12, 1925 at Parkland and was buried there.	1851-1925; 1854-1883

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Mr Matson continued to reside at Parkland. They had eight children. One child Ida Selmina died when she was five." "Birgit Aanondsdaughter Harstad was born Dec. 19,1854 in Valle Saetersdal, Norway, came to Seneca, Ill. in 1861, and to Fillmore County, Minnesota 1865, married at Arendahl , Minn, March 17,1878 to Lars Hermanson of Fillmore County, he was born in Norway, Dec. 28, 1850,came to Fillmore County and located on a farm near Arendahl. Birgit died at her home there Aug 23, 1883, buried in North Prairie Cemetery, near Arendahl; Lars died in his home Apr 13, 1894 also buried in North Prairie Cemtery. They had three children."	
3/3	New Information and corrections for Harstad Heritage volumes	undated

## Bjug Harstad's travels

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
3/4	Thoughts on Home Missioons in Pioneer days of the Norwegian Synod by Bjug Harstad	1820-1915
3/5	Tre Uger i Telt fra Goose River til Mouse River, D.T. published in For Hjemmet, March 15	1882
3/6	A Three Week Camping Trip (From the Goose River to Mouse River D.T) published in Devil's Lake Journal May 10 Devil's Lake Journal (Devils Lake N.D.) A translated and published version of Tree Uger i Telt	1933
3/7	A Centennial Edition of A Three Week's Camping Trip or From Goose River to Mouse River, Dakota Territory 1881 by Rev. Bjug Harstad Harstad, Adolph M. A translated version of Tre Uger i Telt by Adolph M. Harstad February, 1980	1980
3/8	From the Mission Field by Bjug Harstad "These reports "From the Mission Field" appeared in the Pacific Herold, the Norwegian paper published in Parkland, Washington in the interest particularly of PLU. In July of 1895 Rev. Bjug Harstad made an exploratory tour of the state of Oregon particularly in the Willamette Valley. The purpose will be seen as one reads the accounts written by him. That which we present herewith appeared in the July 17th, 24th and 31st,	1895

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Aug. 7th and 14th and the Sept 1895 issues of Pacific Herold. The translation from Norwegian is by Adolph M. Harstad. The introduction was evidently written by the editor."	
3/9	Reisen til Alaska . (Letters to Pacific Herold from Bjug Harstad) 51 sheets	1898-1899
3/10	Letters and Articles on a Trip into the Yukon Region by B. Harstad published in the Pacific Herold translated by Oliver Harstad 54 sheets	1898-1899
3/11	Letters and Articles on A TRIP INTO THE YUKON REGION by REV. BJUG HARSTAD published in Pacific Herold 1898 and 1899 translated from Norwegian by Oliver Harstad, 75th Anniversary edition Harstad, Oliver 30 sheets	1955-1973
3/12	A trip into the Yukon Region 1898-1899 by Bjug Harstad published in the Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly Concordia Historical Institute 21 sheets	1988
3/13	Bjug Harstad's Alaska travel documents and route	1898
3/14	Alaska Legacy - The Moosehorns As Bjug Harstad and others were prospecting for gold in the Klondike, a Dr. Lee from La Crosse Wisconsin shot a moose for the groups winter meat supply. He gave the horns to Bjug Harstad for the university. They are part of the University Archives collection and are now hanging over the fireplace in the Alumni Office.	1898
3/15	The Alaska-Yukon Gold Book Sourdough Stampede Association A Roster of the progressive men and women who were the argonauts of the Klondike gold stampede and those who are identified with the pioneer days and the Yukon Territory	1930
3/16	Retracing the Alaska-Yukon trip Free Press (Firm : Mankato, Minn.) Clipping from Mankato Free Press concerning Harstad descendants retracing the 1898 Yukon- Alaska trip	2014
3/17	Journey to Los Angeles	1904



Container(s)	Description	Dates
	"The Mission Committe of the Pacific District of the Norwegian Synod has asked the Parkland congregation to permit its pastr B. Harstad to serve congregations in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, California who have given their pastor a leave of absence for a period of about five months, starting June, 1904." Pastor Harstad wrote letters to Pacific Herold describing his journey. His son Adolph Harstad translated the letters from Norwegian,they are included here.	
3/18	Journey to Oregon Oregon Railway and Navigation Company File includes a first class ticket issued to B. Harstad by the company	1908
6	Bjug Harstad's Mukluks worn in Alaska	

## Bjug Harstad, founder of Pacific Lutheran University

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
3/19	Newspaper articles and correspondence regarding founding of Pacific Lutheran University	1891-1897
3/20	Newspaper articles and correspondence regarding the founding of Pacific Lutheran University	1891-1897

## Bjug Harstad and the Church

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
4/1	Report of a Congregational Meeting regarding Bjug Harstad and the Norwegian Synod This report was printed serially in AMERIKA, a Norwegian-American weekly Newspaper published in Madison, Wisoconsin, Rasmus B. Anderson, editor. Adolph M. Harstad has translated the report into English and it is included in the file.	1918
4/2	Concerning authority of a congregation and organized synod	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/3	Parkland Lutheran Church. Early history and dedication of it's first building This congregation was later renamed Trinity Lutheran church	1893-1894
4/4	Parkland Evangelical Lutheran Church dedication	1948
4/5	Jubilee Thankoffering in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the Norwegian Synod	1943
4/6	Is the Bible Reliable? Book written by Bjug Harstad	1929

## Harstad Hall

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
4/7	"Renaming and dedication of Old Main to be known henceforth as Harstad Hall" Includes "Bjug Harstad- Man of Vision" and photo of Harstad family members who atended the event.	1960

## Bjug Harstad Monument in Valle, Saetersdal, Norway

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
4/8	Planning correspondence prior to the dedication File also includes information on an optional Scandinavian tour.	1983
4/9	Dedication of Monument in memory of Bjug Harstad File includes dedication program, greetings from participants, poems, a prolog read at the Summer Festival in the afternoon following the unveiling of the Bjug Harstad Monument. The Summer Festival was held at Tveitetunet, Valle, Norway, news releases and clippings.	June 26,1983
4/10	Scrapbook of the activities surrounding the Harstad Monument dedication	June 26, 1983
4/11	Correspondence regarding funding of Harstad Monnument.	1981-1983

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/12	Lists of Harstad descendants	1994

## Names and Subjects

### **Personal Names :**

Harstad, Adolph Marius

Harstad, Ardyce

Harstad, Guro Omlid

Thune, Esther Harstad

### **Corporate Names :**

Pacific Lutheran University Association

### **Geographical Names :**

Alaska Yukon Pioneers

Parkland (Wash.)

Valle (Norway)

Kerstin Ringdahl  
2017