

Jonas Olson family papers, 1831-1979

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Olson, Gilbert R.
Title	Jonas Olson family papers
Dates	1831-1979 (inclusive) 1831 1979
Quantity	1 file (1 folder), ()
Collection Number	OPVSIEmss_11 (collection)
Summary	The Olson family papers tell the story of Jonas Olson who emigrated to America in 1861 and in 1864 homesteaded in Alfsborg Township, Sibley County, Minnesota. Here he met his wife Anna Britta Hed and the family history tells the story of their life and of their descendants. The family history also includes the story of John Olson who married Josephine, daughter of Jonas and Anna Britta. The story was researched and written by Gilbert R. Olson and family begun in 1977 and ended in 1979.
Repository	Pacific Lutheran University, Archives and Special Collections Archives and Special Collections Pacific Lutheran University 12180 Park Avenue South Tacoma, Washington 98447 Telephone: 253-535-7586 Fax: 253-535-7315 archives@plu.edu
Access Restrictions	The biography is available for research.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Jonas Olson was born at Skaraborgs Län Westergötland, Sweden, on 27 November 1831. He immigrated to America in 1861 and in 1864 homesteaded in Alfsborg Township, Sibley County, Minnesota. Here he met and married Anna Britta Hed, born in 1835 to Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Hed. They farmed on their homestead, planting, cultivating, and harvesting with hand tools, usually homemade. The only fuel available was wood.

Jonas helped organized the first school and was elected to its first Board of Directors. The family lived on their homestead until 1908 when they retired and moved to Winthrop. They had nine children by this time. The children were all raised as devout Christians and abstained from alcohol. They were also all born without medically trained help, as the closest doctor was many miles away. Jonas's and Anna's daughter, Josephine, married John Olson Josephine . .

John Olson, son-in-law to Jonas and Anna Britta, was born on 30 October 1859 in Åsa in the province of Halland Sweden. John was married to Josephine, daughter of Jonas and Anna Britte, she was born on 31 October 1861 and died in 1926. John left Åsa at age eighteen in 1877 to go to America, first landing at Redwing, Minnesota. He had two brothers who immigrated to America, as well. John's first job in

Jonas Olson family papers, 1831-1979

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv71844>

America was working for an Irish farmer in Goodhue County just outside of Redwing. He then worked building a spillway on the Mississippi River for Pillsbury Flour Mills and then at a cabinet factory. He did this until moving to the farm in 1887. He met Josephine Olson in 1883, who had come to the city to work as a house maid for wealthy families. They were married and had their first child in 1885. They were able to purchase land in Gibbon, Minnesota. Here they had eight more children. To make a living they farmed (hand cultivating with the help of horses) and sold eggs, butter, hogs, and wheat. All the children graduated from Knox College at grade eight. Two of the children went on to high school, and Olive was the only child to graduate from college. Two of the boys, Harry and Leonard, were called into service during World War I. died in 1938

Content Description

The collection consists of a manuscript describing the Olson family's history beginning with Jonas (born 1831) and his wife Anna Britta Hed (born 1835). The manuscript talks about their lives as immigrants and pioneers in Minnesota. History about their daughter Josephine and her husband John Olson and their personalities and their children is also discussed.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

Restrictions on Use

Property rights reside with Archives and Special Collections Department at Pacific Lutheran University. Copyright resides with the creators of the documents or their heirs. All requests for permission to publish or quote from (the collection) must be submitted to the University Archivist. The reader must also obtain permission of the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation

Jonas Olson family history, The Scandinavian Immigrant Experience, OPVSIEmss_11, Archives and Special Collections, Pacific Lutheran University, 12180 Park Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98447

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Location of Collection

Box 1 File 11

Preservation Note

Custodial History

Acquisition Information

Bibliography

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Lutheran Church--Minnesota
Frontier and pioneer life
Gold mines and mining--Alaska.
Sweden--Emigration and immigration
Swedish Americans
World War, 1914-1918.

Personal Names :

Hed, Anna Britta
Olson, Gilbert R.--Archives
Olson, John
Olson, Jonas
Olson, Josephine

Corporate Names :

Bernadotte Lutheran Church
Clear Lake Swedish Lutheran Church
Cornish Township Board
Gibbon Co-op Creamery
Pillsbury Flour Mills Company

Family Names :

Olson Family

Geographical Names :

Åsa, Halland (Sweden)
New Ulm (Minn.)
Nicollet County (Minn.)
Seattle (Wash.)
Ulm (Germany)
Freedom (Minn.)
Gibbon (Minn.)
Herman (Minn.)
Minneapolis (Minn.)
Redwing (Minn.)
Sibley County (Minn.)
Skaraborgs Län (Sweden)
Sweden
Winthrop (Minn.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Family history

Occupations :

Agriculture
Farmers

Finding aid prepared by Kerstin Ringdahl and P. Dearing
2011