Foss Family Collection, 1880-1985

Overview of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Foss Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Foss Family Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1880-1985 (inclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1880 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1880-1985 (inclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1880 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>11 boxes (4.5 lin. ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>OPVELCA2_10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Collection contains the records of the Foss family, prominent in the development of the Lutheran Church and involved in the growth of Pacific Lutheran College/University as students, teachers, pastors, and service on the Board of Regents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University, Archives and Special Collections</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12180 Park Avenue South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tacoma, Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>98447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone: 253-535-7586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: 253-535-7315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:archives@plu.edu">archives@plu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Restrictions</td>
<td>Collection is available for research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>English</td>
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| Sponsor       | Funding for preparing this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
|               | Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. |

Historical Note

Ludvig C. (L.C.) Foss (1858-1943)

Born in Romerike, Norway in 1858, L.C. Foss immigrated to Wisconsin in 1880. He had graduated from Akers Teachers Seminary in 1880, and after learning English and attending River Falls Normal School in Wisconsin Foss taught in parochial and public schools in Black River Falls and Eau Claire, Wisconsin from 1882-85. In 1885 he married Ida P. Hanson in Eau Claire. Foss attended Luther Theological Seminary from 1888-1891, and upon graduation received a call to serve as a missionary in Washington and Oregon. The family moved to Fairhaven, near Bellingham, and Foss ministered to Norwegian communities in the Northwest, including some in British Columbia. This involved extensive travel as he walked, rode his horse, and swam to fulfill his many duties. Ida Foss remained in Bellingham with their family, which would grow to include seven daughters and two sons.
In 1894 Foss accepted a call to serve as pastor of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Stanwood, WA, and then of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Everett, WA from 1903-12. In 1912 the Foss family moved to Seattle.

L.C. Foss was present at the groundbreaking of Pacific Lutheran University, and served on the Pacific Lutheran Academy Board of Trustees from 1903-04 and 1906-12, and on the Board of Visitors from 1912-15. In addition, several of his children attended Pacific Lutheran Academy. Carl went to the Academy from 1904-08, Jennie graduated from the stenographic course in 1911, Halfdan attended from 1914-15, Clara studied music during 1914-15, and Magda went to PLC in 1922-23.

In addition to ministering to congregations, Foss became Vice-President of the Pacific District of the Norwegian Synod from 1895-1900 before serving as President from 1900-17. After the 1917 merger that created the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, Foss was elected President, serving until 1924 when he resigned to work as a city missionary in Seattle. Foss held this position until 1937, as well as being pastor at the Sunset Home in Seattle. In 1935 Foss was awarded an honorary doctorate by Luther College, and from 1937-39 he served a Port Madison congregation. In addition, during this time he continued to preach at the Sunset Home and worked as an interim pastor at Prince Rupert, British Columbia. L.C. Foss died on March 26, 1943.

Carl L. Foss (1886-1976)

Carl was born in 1886 in Eau Claire, WI to L.C. and Ida Foss. He attended schools in Stanwood and Everett, WA before studying at Pacific Lutheran Academy from 1904-08 and graduating from Luther College in 1912. Carl Foss graduated from Luther Theological Seminary in 1915 and was called to serve as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco. In 1917 he and Ella Caroline Tvete (1889-1980) were married.

During World War I he worked as a chaplain in the Army stationed in Allery, France. From 1920-21 Carl Foss was a pastor of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Bremerton, WA, and of Trinity Lutheran Church in Tacoma from 1921-22, when he also taught bible and French at Pacific Lutheran College. Carl studied at the University of Washington from 1923-26 in addition to serving as pastor of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle from 1924-27. He was president of Spokane College from 1926 until its closing in 1929. From 1929-31 Carl returned to Pacific Lutheran College to work as a field agent. He worked as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Silverton, OR from 1931-35, and became a chaplain for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Montana during the 1930s. After the outbreak of World War II, Carl served as chaplain in United States Army hospitals in Abilene and El Paso, TX. He continued to work in veterans hospitals at Fort Harrison, MT until 1951 and Seattle, WA from 1951-56 when he retired at age 70. Carl died in Tacoma March 28, 1976.

Halfdan L. Foss (1894-1969)

Halfdan was born in 1894 in South Bellingham, WA, the fourth child of L.C. and Ida Foss. He attended schools in Everett and Seattle before studying at Pacific Lutheran Academy during 1914-15. Although he left school in 1915 to work in an Alaska gold mine and then as a boiler maker in San Francisco, he returned to enter Luther Theological Seminary in 1916. Halfdan Foss and Elise Helen Iverson were married in 1919.

After his 1919 ordination, Halfdan served in parishes in Bellingham, Ferndale and Custer, WA until 1927, when he went to Silverton, OR to work as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. In 1931 Halfdan Foss was elected president of the Pacific District of the ELC, serving from 1931-64 before working as president of the North Pacific District of the ALC from 1960-64.

Foss Family Collection, 1880-1985
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv79359
In addition to his responsibilities as district president, Halfdan Foss served as chairperson of the Pacific Lutheran University Board of Trustees from 1942 to 1964. Foss received an honorary Doctor of Laws from PLC in 1957.

Foss Family

Jennie Foss Michelson taught school in Port Madison for several years. Clara Foss Fixen and Elise Iverson Foss, Halfdan’s wife, were active in the Pacific District Women’s Missionary Federation. The other Foss sisters were Ida Foss Johnson, Agnes Foss Hellickson, Margaret Foss Syre, Magda Foss, and Lillian Foss.

Oscar A. Tingelstad

Some documents and photos from Oscar and Alfield Tingelstad were found in the Foss collection. Ella Tvete Foss, wife of Carl Foss, and Alfield Tvete Tingelstad, wife of Oscar Tingelstad, were sisters. Photos from the Tvete family from Arlington, WA are also included.

Content Description

This collection contains the papers of the Foss family that was prominent in the development of the Lutheran Church, and was involved in the growth of Pacific Lutheran College/University as students, teachers, pastors, and serving on the Board of Trustees Regents

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

[identification of item], Foss Family Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, 98447.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in eleven series:

Series 1. Ludvig Foss
Series 2. Halfdan L. Foss
Series 3. Carl Foss, the student
Series 4. Carl Foss in World War I
Series 5. Spokane College and Pacific Lutheran College
Series 6. Postcards
Series 7. Clippings
Series 8. Scrapbooks
Series 9. Religious Tracts and Pamphlets
Series 10. Artifacts and clothing
Series 11. Carl Foss datebooks

Acquisition Information
Donated by the Foss family

Related Materials
To search and view Pacific Lutheran University's digitized images, visit our Digital Assets Website

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Ludvig Foss and his family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Correspondence from the Seattle Genealogical Society to Philip Hauge regarding the Foss family and several drafts of a handwritten account of the family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>L.C. Foss' background and immigration, his experiences as a mission pastor in Washington, and difficulties faced by the family. A tribute to Dr. L.C. Foss was written in 1943, which includes reminiscences by family members and colleagues</td>
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Series 2: Halfdan L Foss

<table>
<thead>
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### Series 3: Carl Foss the student

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<tr>
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<td>Pacific Lutheran Academy, Luther College</td>
<td>1904-1908, 1908-1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Correspondence from family members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Programs, social events and music performances</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Course notes as well as personal notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Sport notes and ticket stubs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>Yearbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>European Tour by Luther College choir and band</td>
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### Series 4: Carl Foss in World War I

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<td>Notebooks and papers while in France</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Notebooks and papers while in France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Ibid</td>
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<td>Container(s)</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Journal kept while on a trip in France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Souvenirs of France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Military insignia, daily devotional, prayers and worship service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>War Department ID card and Chaplain's manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Lecture notes on foreign policy and international law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>German propaganda material</td>
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### Series 5: Spokane College and Pacific Lutheran College

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<td>3.1</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding status of Spokane College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Personal financial records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Business cards and personal notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Pacific District conference materials; records of baptisms, marriages and funerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>PLC bulletins and dedication of Ordal and Tingelstad halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Obituary and memorial service programs for Carl and Ella Foss</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 6: Postcards

Cards in files 1-5 are generally written to or from Carl L. Foss, and are organized by Foss' address, and then by date. Files 6 and 7 are from the Tingelstad and Tvete families, and are organized by recipient and postmark dates. Blank cards are filed according to the image depicted.
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Luther College and Wisconsin</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4.4</td>
<td>Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>1914-1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>From Oscar to Alfield Tvete</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Luther College Band European Tour</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>From Alfield in Decorah, Iowa To Ella Tvete (Foss) in Seattle To Mrs. Guerine Tvete in Seattle From Nina Tvete</td>
<td>1914-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Blank cards portray comics, holidays and romance</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Cards depicting Washington State</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>Decorah, Iowa and Luther College</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>London, Marseilles and Copenhagen</td>
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<td>4.15</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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**Series 7: Clippings**

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<td>Foss family</td>
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<td>5.2</td>
<td>Luther College Choir and Band Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>World War I</td>
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</table>
| 5.4         | Puget Sound Area Society  
Clippings describe musical events, club meetings and officers,  
wedding anniversaries, graduations, business promotions,  
society events, obituaries, birth announcements, residents  
serving in World War II, beauty pageants, local theater, and  
noted visitors to the Northwest | 1919-1943 |
| 5.5         | Parkland  
Contains anniversaries of Parkland residents, Trinity Guild  
news, and an article on a Parkland author of a nature book | 1938-1940 |
| 5.6         | Pacific Lutheran College (PLC)  
Includes articles on the resignation of Oscar Tingelstad, the call  
of Seth Eastvold, sports, music, and the growth of PLC. | 1930-1944 |
| 5.7         | Human Interest Clippings  
Articles relate to the sinking of the Titanic, unusual marriages,  
large families, and a large-scale baptism. | 1909-1939 |
| 5.8         | Luther College and Decorah News  
Contains news of service people from Decorah in World War II,  
obituaries, and photos of Luther College women in 1947. | 1943-1947 |
| 5.9         | Anniversaries, engagement and weddings |       |
| 5.10        | Celebrities  
Contains pictures of radio and movie personalities, radio show  
news, and celebrity obituaries. Collection includes articles on  
Eddie Cantor, the "Myrt and Marge" radio show, and George  
Burns and Gracie Allen. |       |
| 5.11        | Church  
Articles on church anniversaries, pastor resignations, music  
programs, obituaries, ladies’ aid meetings, social services,  
District officers, and Decorah churches. | 1930-1944 |
| 5.12-14     | Politics  
Contains articles on Harry Truman, Minnesota state politics,  
and Washington state issues and candidates. A 1917 Seattle  
paper features the indictment of the mayor and ex-sheriff, who  
were accused of violating interstate commerce and liquor trade  
codes. | 1917,  
1931-1944, 1960 |
### Series 8: Scrapbooks

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<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>Articles in favor of Richard Nixon and discussion of Kennedy's victory and his coming administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran College (PLC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consists of 8&quot; x 10&quot; photos of buildings, groups of students, and student organizations, such as the Mooring Mast staff, the Dramatic Society, the freshman class, and the tennis, golf, football, and basketball teams.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Pacific Northwest Society and PLC</td>
<td>1933-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scrapbook consists mostly of newspaper clippings. Puget Sound area community club meetings and officers, conferences, and weddings are included, as well as news from Arlington, WA and profiles of northwest pioneers. Clippings from PLC relate to sports, music, drama, May festivals and royalty, groundbreakings, the Choir of the West, new faculty, Dormitory Auxiliary officers and meetings, student officers and activities, obituaries, and retirements, including that of Nils J. Hong. Society news includes many people connected with PLC, such and the Kreidler, Tinglestad, and Sperati families.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Weddings</td>
<td>1938-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The weddings of Agnes Foss, Norma Preus and Stanley Dahl, Rhoda Hokenstad and Walter Young, Isabelle Magnusson and Roland Swanson, Dorothy Larson and Marv Harshman, Barbara Xavier and Robert Clark, Carol Haavik and Marv Tonnervik, and other people from PLC and the Puget Sound area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Visit of Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Märtha of Norway</td>
<td>1939</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes luncheon programs, a souvenir program outlining their tour, a banquet menu, newspaper clippings, and snapshots. Clippings describe the couple's itinerary, the royal family, banquets and receptions, parades, and their visit to Tacoma and PLC. Snapshots show their visit to PLC, including pictures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of the crowd in front of Trinity Lutheran Church and the royal couple. Many of the newspaper articles are in Norwegian.

6.5 Tacoma and Parkland
Consists of newspaper clippings involving Tacoma clergy and women's clubs, weddings, the Parkland Children's Home (Everett), and PLC sports, as well as family and group photos from the 1930s and photos from the early 1900s showing a wedding.

Series 9: Religious Tracts and Pamphlets

Pamphlets range in publication date from 1874 to 1922, and are organized by date when possible. Topics include studies on individual books of the bible, recommended lifestyles, and social and political issues. Many dating from before 1900 are from the Anti-Infidel Library” edited by H.L. Hastings. Several Easter services and copies of the "Lutheran Herald" are included. Several pamphlets are in Norwegian.

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>H.L. Hastings Anti-Infidel Library</td>
<td>1874-1894</td>
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<td>7.2</td>
<td>Ibid</td>
<td>1894-1895</td>
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<td>7.3-4</td>
<td>Ibid</td>
<td>1893-1898</td>
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<td>7.5</td>
<td>Ibid</td>
<td>1908-1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>Ibid</td>
<td>1922, 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>Ibid</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>Ibid</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>Easter Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.10</td>
<td>Lutheran Herald</td>
<td>1931, 1933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Series 10: Artifacts and clothing
Series 11: Datebooks

Datebooks generally contain brief financial records, addresses, personal notes, appointments, travel schedules, notes on baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and church events such as worship services, ladies aid meetings, congregational meetings, parishioners requests, and ice cream socials. Through spring of 1915 datebooks include notes on seminary assignments, and during 1918-19 datebooks reflect Foss' experiences as an Army chaplain. Datebooks from 1922-23 include Foss' schedule and notes as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, WA, and in 1928-29 Foss included notes on the difficulties faced by Spokane College.
Container(s) | Description | Dates
--- | --- | ---
11.5 | Tingelstad, University of Chicago | 1957, 1960
11.6 | Materials date from Oscar Tingelstad's time as a graduate student in Chicago, and include his matriculation card and a paper written on paranoia. |
11.7 | Tingelstad-Pacific Lutheran College | Contains a program from O.A. Tingelstad's inauguration as president of PLC, a copy of "Glorious Christ" by J.O. Edwards, given to Alfield Tingelstad by the composer, a copy of Anders, a small book describing the boyhood and life of Anders Ramstad, a tribute to Michel Franck written by Oscar Tingelstad, and a citation of honor given to Oscar Tingelstad by the Board of Christian Education of the E.L.C. in 1951.

Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church.
Pacific Lutheran College. Board of Trustees
Pacific Lutheran University. Board of Regents
World War II

**Personal Names:**
Foss, Carl
Foss, Halfdan L.
Foss, Ludvig C.
Tingelstad, O. A. (Oscar Adolf), 1882-1953

**Corporate Names:**
Luther Theological Seminary
Pacific Lutheran Academy
Pacific Lutheran College
Spokane College
Sunset Home, Seattle

**Family Names:**
Foss family
(creator)
Tvete family

**Geographical Names:**
Bellingham (Wash)
Eau Claire (Wis.)

**Occupations:**
Clergy

Finding aid prepared by Kerstin Ringdahl