

Gustav Lawrence Bongfelt papers, 1936-1949; 1981

Size: .25 linear feet, 1 box

Acquisition: Donated to SSIRC 1981 by Gustav L. Bongfeldt of Sunshine Villas, Lehigh Acres, FL.

Access: The collection is open for research.

Processed by: Sally Malysa, 1983, Finding aid updated in 2005.

Control Num.: SSIRC MSS P:22

Provenance

The papers of G.L. Bongfeldt were donated to the SSIRC in September 1981, by Gustav L. Bongfeldt of Sunshine Villas, Lehigh Acres, Florida. The collection consists of letters to Bongfeldt from Rev. C. A. Wendell. When received, the letters were pasted onto ruled pages of a spiral notebook in no apparent chronological order. Sally Malysa processed the collection in February 1983.

Biographical note

Gustav Lawrence Bongfeldt was born on November 6, 1903, in Marinette, Wisconsin, to Erick August Bongfeldt and Augusta Kalmar (Berglund). He attended Gustavus Adolphus College where he received his B.A. in 1928, and Augustana Seminary, where he received his B.D. in 1931. On June 14, 1931, he was ordained by the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Jamestown, New York. Following ordination he served the churches in Robbinsdale, Minnesota (1931-1934), Eau Claire, Wisconsin (1934-1947) and Chicago, Illinois (1956-1968). He served as a board member of Camp Augustana and was the author of *Quiet Hour* (1934) and *Pen Portraits of P. O. Beryl and C. A. Wendell* (1950).

Claus August Wendell was born on April 24, 1866, in Ving, Västergötland, Sweden, and immigrated to America in 1869. He attended Augustana College, where he received his B.A. in 1893 and MA in 1897. He served as an instructor for Rock Island High School from 1897-1902 before attending Northwestern University and the University of Minnesota. He was ordained in the Augustana Synod on June 11, 1905, in Stanton, Iowa. Following ordination he served Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rockford, Illinois (1905-1911); Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, Illinois (1911-1914); and Grace Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1914-1947). As a

pastor, he was also connected with the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Pastors' Association. He was a member of the Lutheran Welfare Society and the Association of English Churches of the Augustana Synod. He served as co-editor of the *Junior Hymnal* authorized by the Augustana Lutheran Synod, and as editor of *Rockford Posten*. He was the author of Little Journeys in His Kingdom. He served as a board member for the YMCA, the University of Minnesota and the Augustana Hymnal Committee. In 1939 he received the honorary D.D. degree from Augustana College. He was married in Putnam, Illinois, on August 1937, to Anna Norlin, with whom he had three children. He died on September 18, 1950. A lengthier biography of C.A. Wendell can be found in G. L. Bongfeldt's *Pen Portraits of P.O. Bersell and C. A. Wendell* (Rock Island, Ill.: Augustana Book Concern, c. 1950), pp. 63-115.

Folder inventory

1. Bongfeldt, Gustav L. (1903 -). Papers

Background information on the collection from the Donor, July 13 and 15, 1981.

2. Bongfeldt, Gustav L. (1903 -). Papers.

Letters from Rev. C. A. Wendell to Rev. G. L. Bongfeldt, 1936; 1938-1939; 1943-1946; 1949.