

# Sven T. Olson family papers, 1869-1908

**Size:** 3 boxes, 70 folders

**Acquisition:** Purchased at an auction in the fall of 1982 by Sally Brillon.

**Access:** The collection is open for research and a limited amount of copies can be requested via mail.

**Processed by:** Victoria Ann Oliver, 1983

**Control num:** SSIRC MSS P:75

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## Provenance

The Swenson Center purchased the Sven T. Olson papers from Sally Brillon in 1982. Sally Brillon had bought the material at an auction. The letters were organized by sender when received at the Swenson Center. Victoria Ann Oliver processed the collection the winter of 1983.

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## Biographical Sketch

Sven T. Olson was born on March 3, 1838 in Jämshög, Blekinge, Sweden. In 1855, he immigrated to the United States with his brother John T. Olson. Cecilia (Håkanson) Olson was born June 16, 1844 in Jämshög, Blekinge, Sweden. She immigrated to the United States in 1865. Sven and Cecilia married in 1872 and settled in Andover, Illinois, where they were members of Augustana Lutheran Church. In 1874, the family moved to Woodhull, Illinois and joined the Bethany Lutheran Church. Sven and Cecilia had seven children and raised one foster son. Sven's father, Trued Olson, and his brothers Olaf, John, Bengt and Nels and sisters Karste and Hannah also immigrated to Illinois during the period 1855 and 1869. After living in Illinois for a period the extended family migrated to Lindsborg and Assaria in Kansas.

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## Organization of Collection

The collection is organized in 70 folders in three boxes. The main portion consists of letters received by Sven T. Olson, who appears to be the creator of the collection. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by sender. The second section consists of letters received by other family members: basic arrangement is alphabetical by receiver and then internally by the name of the correspondent. In each folder, the letters are in chronological order. Some folders contain other printed materials. There is one photograph.

The collection also contains a family pedigree chart.

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## The collection is organized in the following 13 categories:

1. The Sven T. Olson (1838-1911) Papers, 1870-1908 (49 folders)
2. The Esther Franseen (1874-?) Papers, 1907-1913 (3 folders)
3. The Peter Nelson (1899) Papers, 1899 (1 folder)
4. The Bengt T. Olson (1847-?) Papers, 1879 (1 folder)
5. The Cecilia Olson, (1844-?) Papers, 1883-1884 (1 folder)
6. The Emma Olson (1876-?) Papers, 1898-1899 (2 folders)
7. The Hattie N. Olson (1878-?) Papers, 1892-1907 (5 folders)
8. The Herman T. Olson (1886-?) Papers, 1906 (1 folder)
9. The J. Olson. (?-?) Papers, 1874 (1 folder)
10. The John T. Olson, (1843-1890) Papers, 1869 (1 folder)
11. The Nels T. Olson, (?-?) Papers, 1890 (1 folder)
12. The Trued Olson, (1814-1895) Papers, 1864-1870; n.d. (1 folders)
13. The Olaf Truedson (Olaf T. Olson), (1833-?) Papers, 1897 (1 folder)

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## Folder Inventory

### Box 1

#### Category 1. The Sven T. Olson (1838-1911) Papers, 1870-1908 (49 folders)

1. 18 letters written by O.S. Almquist, Dighton, Kansas, 1891-1900 (Swedish)
2. 4 letters written by sister in law, Hanna Andersson, Assaria, Kansas, 1892-1899 (Swedish)
3. 1 letter written by niece Hulda Anderson, Assaria, Kansas, 1903 (Swedish)
4. 1 letter written by S. B. Burgiss, Woodhull, Illinois, 1897 (English)
5. 22 letters written by H.O.T. Burkwall, 1894-1900 (Swedish) from: Moline, Monmouth, Oneida, Tiskilwa and Utica, Illinois; Creston, Munterville, Oskaloosa and Yorktown, Iowa; Assaria and Marysville, Kansas; Canton, China.
6. 1 letter written by C. J. Cling, 1890, Dayton, Iowa (Swedish)
7. 1 letter written by Hyman L. Cohen, 1898, St. Anne, Illinois (English)
8. 1 letter written by Dr. Peter Fahrney, 1892, Chicago, Illinois (Swedish)
9. 1 letter written by John Franson, 1895, Galesburg, Illinois (Swedish)
10. 2 letters written by Erick Hawkinson, 1891 Millersburg (Swedish)
11. 2 letters written by brother in law, Pit Hawkinson, 1882;1892, Assaria, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri (Swedish)
12. 6 letters written by brother in-law, O. Holcomb, 1893, 1894, 189?, Salina, Kansas (Swedish)
13. 6 letters written by George G. Johnson, 1902-1903, Kewanee, Rockford, and Galesburg, Illinois (Swedish)
14. 16 letters written by niece Ingrid Johnson, 1892-1903, Berwick and Bridgeport, Kansas (Swedish)
15. 2 letters written by K. A. Jonson, Manager Minneapolis Veckoblad Pub. Co., 1893, 1984. (Swedish)
16. 1 letter written by Mrs. S. Johnson, 1885 (Swedish)
17. 1 letter written by Robert Knox, Justice of Peace, Alpha, Illinois, 1890 (English)
18. 1 letter written by N. N. Lincoln (Broom Corn, Grain and Stock Merchant), McPherson, Kansas, 1880 (English)
19. 5 letters written by Z. C. Millikin, Attorney and Counselor, Salina, Kansas, 1897 (English)
20. 11 receipts (some with letters) from J. T. McKnight, 1880-1893 Galesburg and

Woodhull, Illinois (English)

21. 2 letters written by Carl Monson, Pullman, Illinois, 1895 (Swedish)
22. 3 letters written by Nels Nelson (secretary, Scandinavian Mutual Aid Society, Galesburg, Illinois, 1885, 1886, 1892 (Swedish)
23. 3 letters written by Olaf Nelson, farmer in Laconner and Mount Vernon, Washington, 1878, 1899 (Swedish)
24. 12 letters written by P. S. Nelson, Abingdon, Maywood, Peoria and Soperville, Illinois, Nörjeby and Ronneby, Sweden, 1891, 1898-1900, 1903 (Swedish, a few in English)
25. 1 letter written by S. H. Newman, Rock Island, Illinois, 1894 (Swedish)
26. 1 letter written by Per Nilsson, Nya Ryedahl (Nya Ryedal), Belkinge, Sweden, 1882 (Swedish)
27. 1 letter written by Håkan Nyman, Salina, Kansas, 1876 (Swedish)
28. 1 letter written by O. Ohlsson, Woodhull, Illinois, 1883 (Swedish)
29. 16 letters written by brother Bengt T. Olson, Bridgeport, Lindsborg and Salina, Kansas, 1878; 1885; 1891-1897, n.d. (Swedish); includes copy of Probate Court order regarding estate of Trued Olson, 1987 (English)
30. 1 letter written by Hannah Olson, Assaria, Kansas, 1891 (English)

## Box 2

1. 1 Report card for Herman T. Olson, 1899; 16 letters written by son Herman T. Olson, Berwick, Kansas, 1902-1903 (English, sometimes mixed with Swedish) to both Sven T. Olson and Cecilia Olson
2. 13 letters written by brother (Nels) N. T. Olson, Lindsborg, Kansas, 1890, 1895-1897 (Swedish)
3. 4 letters written by O. W. Olson, Chicago, Illinois, 1890, 1891 (Swedish)
4. 44 letters written by father Trued Olson, Lindsborg, Salemsborg (Salemsborg) and Saline (Salina), Kansas; New York, New York, Gammalstorp, Ronneby and Sölvesborg (Sölvesborg), Sweden, 1870-1877, 1879 (Swedish)
5. 46 letters written by father Trued Olson, Assaria (Assaria) and Lindsborg, Kansas, 1885-1895 (Swedish)
6. 44 letters written by father Trued Olson, Assaria, Kansas, 1888-1895 (Swedish)
7. 14 letters written by William Olson, Clay Center, Kansas, 1897-1900, 1902-1903 (Swedish)
8. 1 letter written by John Österman, Assaria, Kansas, 1893 (Swedish)
9. 1 letter written by cousin Ida Peterson to Sven T. and Cecilia Olson, n.d. (Swedish)
10. 2 letters written by Jonas Peterson, Funk, Nebraska, 1889, 1891 (Swedish)
11. 9 letters written by Sven R. Peterson and Emma Peterson, Algona, Iowa, to Sven T. and Cecilia Olson, 1889-1892, 1894 (Swedish)
12. 1 letter written by D. Rosenfeldt, Burlington, Iowa, 1895 (English)

## Box 3

1. 1 letter written by Mr. and Mrs. George R. Sandborg, Galesburg, Illinois, 1906 (English)
2. 5 letters written by Albert Swanson, Woodhull, Illinois, 1898-1900 (English)
3. 3 letters written by nephew S. W. Swanson, Assaria, Kansas, 1892 (Swedish)
4. 24 letters written by brother Olaf Truedson (Olaf T. Olson), Assaria, Kansas; Lakanor (Laconner), Washington, 1895-1900 (Swedish, a few in English)
5. 17 letters written by sister Kraste (Tena, Christene) Ukele, Berwick, Kansas, 1896-1897, 1901-1903 (English)
6. 1 photograph, unidentified, Galesburg, Illinois, n.d.
7. Calendar cards, 1893 (March - September), printed (English); Columba's Sunday School Quarterly, 1908, printed (Swedish)

**Category 2. The Esther Franseen (1874-?) Papers, 1907-1913 (3 folders)**

8. 1 letter written by Anna Erickson to Esther Franseen, Dighton, Kansas, 1913 (English); 1 letter written by John R. Kohler, Davenport, Iowa, 1913 (English); 1 letter written by G. C. Rockwood, Aurora, Illinois, 1913 (English); 1 letter written by sister-in-law Ida, Cement, Oklahoma, 1913 (English)
9. Draft of letter to the Cloverleaf Casualty Company, Woodhull, Illinois, 1913 (English)
10. Financial Documents from "Syskonmötet" and missionary activities in Woodhull, Illinois, 1907, 1908 (Swedish)

**Category 3. The Peter Nelson (1899) Papers, 1899 (1 folder)**

11. 1 letter written by cousin John Johnson, Holcomb, Nebraska, 1899 (Swedish)

**Category 4. The Bengt T. Olson (1847-?) Papers, 1879 (1 folder)**

12. 1 letter written by brother Sven T. Olson, Woodhull, Illinois, 1897 (Swedish)

**Category 5. The Cecilia Olson, (1844-?) Papers, 1883-1884 (1 folder)**

13. 1 letter written by O.S. Almquist, Woodhull, Illinois, 1883 (Swedish); 1 letter written by father-in-law Trued Olson, Asaria (Assaria), Kansas, 1884 (Swedish)

**Category 6. The Emma Olson (1876-?) Papers, 1898-1899 (2 folders)**

14. 1 letter written by Hyman L. Cohen, St. Anne, Illinois, 1899 (English)
15. 1 letter written by Albert Swanson, Woodhull, Illinois, 1898 (English)

**Category 7. The Hattie N. Olson (1878-?) Papers, 1892-1907 (5 folders)**

16. 1 letter written by Rev. J. G. Kraft, Elgin, Illinois, 1906 (English)
17. 2 letters written by mother Cecilia Olson, sister Ella, and unidentified, Berwick, Kansas; Belvidere, Illinois, 1892 and 1906 (?) (Swedish)
18. 1 letter written by Stella C. Ottman, Kingston, Illinois, 1907 (English)
19. 1 letter written by Clara Peterson, Dows, Iowa, 1903 (English)
20. 1 letter written by Elvira, Roodhouse, Illinois, 1906 (English); 1 letter written by friend Esther, Neponset, Illinois (English); 1 letter written by cousin Olga, Roodhouse, Illinois, 1906 (English)

**Category 8. The Herman T. Olson (1886-?) Papers, 1906 (1 folder)**

21. 1 letter written by A. G. Abraham, Moline, Illinois, Moline Candy Mfg. Company 1906 (English)

**Category 9. The J. Olson. (?-?) Papers, 1874 (1 folder)**

22. 1 letter written by Olaf Truedson, Woodhull, Illinois, 1874 (Swedish)

**Category 10. The John T. (Jöns Truedson) Olson, (1843-1890) Papers, 1869 (1 folder)**

23. 1 letter written by father Trued Olson, Gammalstrop and Sölwesborg (Sölvesborg), Sweden, 1869 (Swedish)

**Category 11. The Nels T. Olson, (?-?) Papers, 1890 (1 folder)**

- 24. 1 letter written by brother B. T. Olson, Clarissa, Minnesota, 1890 (Swedish)
- 25. 2 letters written by P. J. Swenander, Sölwesborg (Sölvesborg), Sweden, 1870 (Swedish)
- 26. Contract between Trued Håkanson and Måns Persson in Felkesboda/Näsum, Sweden, 1864, 1865 (Swedish)

**Category 12. The Trued Olson, (1814-1895) Papers, 1864-1870; n.d. (1 folders)**

- 27. Description of a dream: Drömmen, n.d. (Swedish)

**Category 13. The Olaf Truedson, (Olaf T. Olson) (1833-?) Papers, 1897 (1 folder)**

- 28. 1 letter written by brother Sven T. Olson, Woodhull, Illinois, 1897 (Swedish)