



**Collection Name:**

Claire Selkurt papers, 1848-2000

**Collection Number:**

P1615

**Extent:**

1.6 cubic feet (4 archives boxes)

**Abstract:**

A graduate of St. Olaf College, Selkurt got her M.A. in the Design department of the University of Minnesota, with thesis on the architecture and applied arts of the early settlement period (1839-1950) of early Norwegian settlers of Luther Valley settlement, Rock County, Wisconsin. In 1979 she received the Ph.D. in art history at the University. She has taught at Mankato State University and the College of Liberal Arts, St. Paul. Her article, "The domestic architecture and cabinetry of Luther Valley" was published in *Norwegian-American Studies*, v. 30, pp. 247-272 (1985). The larger part of the collection consists of materials Selkurt collected in the course of her research on Luther Valley: notes on reading, photocopies of articles, photographs of buildings, bibliographic notes, papers she wrote for classes (including "Wood and stone: the frontier heritage," *American architecture*, 1972, 20 p. and 30 p. illus.), correspondence, etc.

Materials are in rough alphabetical order, and a few topics are noted here: Halvor N. Aae clock, signet ring, spoon. Arnold cabin fragment. Bornits. Notes on Signe Betsinger's doctoral thesis. Article by Thora Bohn. Clausen parsonage. Cleophas family. Crispensen cabin. Correspondence. Engelbretson house. Saber Gesley farm, bureaus, recollections of Torris Gesley. Gilbertson cabin at Turkop. Gravedale furniture. Greenwalt house. Haugen house. Heyerdahl house. Limestone quarry. Lofthus stone house. Melvin Lund house. Luther Valley. Emigraten print shop. Palombi grainery and house. Saberson house. Schee (Tollefsrud) house. Paul Skavlem bowls, furniture, house. Springen house. Strand house. Thostensen house. Turkop. Vesterheim Museum. Wagley (Vegli) cabin. Selkurt served as curator of the exhibit, "Norwegian-American art in Minnesota today," April 29-June 3, 2000, at the Groveland Gallery (25 Groveland Terrace, Minneapolis, MN 55403). She wrote an "introductory essay" (2 p.) and the text of the 4 p. catalog introducing the artists, with color illustration. Artists included: Wendell Arneson, Alison Aune. Kirsten Aune. Caroly Brunelle. Ruth Donhowe. Ann Jenkins. Ann Klefstad. Richard Krogstad. Tom Maakestad. Ruth Ann Larsen Norlund. Carl Oltvedt. Nancy Randall. Arna Renna.



Box	Folder	Description	Date	Range
1	1	Addresses. List of addresses; Corrections and Additions for an unknown paper; 1 photograph of Halvor N. Aae clock; 8 photographs of the cabin fragment on Arnold property;	1973	1973
1	2	Papers. Notes titled Supporting Literature and Bibliography; notes on various theses; A Quest for Norwegian Folk Art in America by Tora Bøhn, with notes from Selkurt.	0	0
1	3	Papers. Articles and photocopies on the construction and materials needed for cabins and houses; 4 photographs of the Crispensen cabin; 10 photographs of and information on the Claus Laurirtz Clausen parsonage.	1973	1973
1	4	Correspondence. Miscellaneous letters.	1960	1975
1	5	Papers. 16 photographs of the Engelbretsen house.	1973	1973
1	6	Papers. Notes on Native Art of Norway by Hauglid and The Folk Art of Norway by Janice Stewart.	0	0
1	7	Papers. 9 photographs of the Gesley farm with information on the family; 4 photographs of the Gilbertsen cabin at Turkop; 18 photographs of the furniture belonging to Gullick Olesen Gravedahl; 7 photographs of the Grenwalt house.	1973	1973
1	8	Papers. 9 photographs of the Heyerdahl house; 9 photographs of the Haugen (Mikkelsen) house; notes on the houses, owners, and structures.	1973	1973
1	8	Jefferson Prairie: Joranlien house. 12 photographs of the Joranlien house.	1973	1973
1	10	Keesey Structure. 2 photographs of the remains of the Keesey structure.	1973	1973
1	11	Papers. Articles on the early Luther Valley settlement; 11 photographs of the Lofthus stone house; 1 photograph of the limestone quarry; 4 photographs of the Melvin Lund house; 12 photographs of the Ira Larson house.	1973	1973
1	12	Papers. Articles on early settlements and Norwegian immigration; 3 photographs of the Martin cupboard.	1973	1973
1	13	Papers. Articles on Norwegian immigration	1973	1973
1	14	Print Shop (Emigranten), Palombi House. Many photocopies of photographs of various cabins; 3 photographs of the Emigranten print shop; 24 photographs of the Palombi house and grainery.	1973	1973
1	15	Rock County. Plat maps of Rock county for 1858 and 1873.	1858	1873



1	16	Papers. Photographs: Saberson house (11); Schee (Tollefsrud) house (1); Paul Skavlem bowls (9); Paul Skavlem furniture (14); Paul Skavlem house (16); Springen house (17); Strand house (10).	1973	1973
1	17	Turkop (Immansville); Thostensen House. 17 photographs of the Thostensen house.	1973	1973
1	18	Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah. 15 photographs and postcards.	1973	1973
1	19	Wagley (Vegli) cabin. 15 photographs.	1973	1973
1	20	Wood and Stone: The Frontier Heritage by Claire Selkurt.	1972	1972
1	21	Exhibit Catalogue. Groveland Gallery, Norwegian-American Art in Minnesota, 2000.	2000	2000

2	1	Added Jan. 7, 2014: File/Family Histories & Pedigrees: History of the Gullick (Knudson Laugen) Springen Family (2 pgs, typescript); and The Gesley Family (descended from Gisle Sebjounson Halland & Margit Knudsdatter Nosterud (married 1839).	1921	1970
2	2	Added Jan. 7, 2014: Address by H.L. Skavlem and Tosten Holverson at the Reunion of the Skavlem and Odegarden Families (reprint from Beloit Daily News, Rock County, Wisc., July 20, 1913. Addition of family reunion photograph).	1913	1913
2	3	Added Jan. 7, 2014: The Gesley and Springen Family Album (vol. I), compiled by Dr. Claire Selkurt. Includes family documents, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Each item is identified with a master index provided by Selkurt. Items include: No. 34/Land Grant signed by James K. Polk issued to Gullick Knudsen in 1848; and No. 42/Payment of one dollar for service in the 22 Regiment of Wisconsin at Camp Coburn on December 2, 1862 (Ole Springen);	1848	1990
2	4	Added Jan. 7, 2014: journals kept by Carolyn May Gesley (in English: 1925) & Grace Gesley (in English: 1931-1933)	1925	1933
3	1	Added Jan. 7, 2014: The Gesley and Springen Family Album (vol. II), compiled by Dr. Claire Selkurt. Includes family documents, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Each item is identified with a master index provided by Selkurt. Items include: No. 3/Memorial card for Sophia A. Springen (1890) and No. 26/ride at Echo Mountain, ca. 1921.	1860	1968
3	2	Added Jan. 7, 2014: The Gesley Record scrapbook. Includes photograph and clipping regarding Elling Eielson.	1883	1955



3	3	Added Jan. 7, 2014: Journals kept by Ansten G. Springen (in Norwegian: 1904, 1917, 1924)	1904	1924
4		Added March 16, 2015: Diaries kept by Ruth Gesley (1933-1934), Grace Gesley (1934-1935), Carolyn Gesley (1932) and Mrs. Myrtle Legg (1959-1963); and Volume 3/compiled photograph album of the George and Luella Springen Gesley family (1912-1990). Images of note: Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933; public school graduation, c. 1926; girls in 4H demonstration outfits, ca. 1927; Lake Ripley; Gesley farm, late 1920s; Niagara Falls, 1938; St. Olaf College, 1932; New York World's Fair, 1939 (brochure cover & journal notes); Gesley School, ca. 1933; Clinton School, 1942; Whitewater Normal School, 1945; Rock County Public School diploma, 1926; Rock County Training School for Teachers, Janesville, Wisconsin, 1933; Wisconsin Dells (Carolyn dressed in Native American/Indian clothing, ca. 1950s); Saber with prize cow, ca. 1930s; and harvesting berries, 1940s.	1932	1990