

Collection Name:

Olaf Olsen papers, 1857-1939

Collection Number:

P0573

Extent:

4.4 cubic feet (11 archives boxes) and 2 volumes

History/Biography:

Ole Olsen was born March 12, 1871 to Marie Gulbrandsdatter (1841-) and Edvart Olsen (1838-) in Oslo, Norway. He had five siblings: Josephine Bertha (1869-), Marie (1873-), Gulbrand (1875-), Helga (1877-), and Harald (1880-). Olaf and his sister, Bertha, arrived in Castle Garden, New York City, on May 26, 1890 before arriving at their final destination. They traveled through Pittsburg, Columbus, Little Rock, Texarkana, Austin, San Antonio, and Pena. Olaf married Emma Noble on June 14, 1905, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Together they had a daughter, Ena/Ina Frances Olsen, born in 1906.

Olsen was a shop machinist in Laredo (Texas), Wilmington (Delaware), and Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). He was also machinist on English ships and served in the U.S. Revenue Cutter Services during the Spanish-American War (1898). After 1900, he worked as an engineer with coastal trade steamship lines. He was also a member of the Socialist Party of America.

Scope and Content:

Correspondence, articles, reports, drawings, diaries, log-books, notebooks, clippings, and pamphlets of a Norwegian-born machinist and engineer. The correspondence deals with such topics as problems in engineering, sea disasters, strikes and labor problems, drought, farm crops, recreation, and religion.

In a letter dated September 29, 1890, Olsen describes his journey from Oslo to Laredo, Texas, via ship and rail. Most of the letters by Olsen are to his wife. The articles include biographies of members of Olsen's family and also treat Yukon gold rush experiences. One diary concerns his immigration journey to America.

Access Rights:

This collection is open to research.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. Olaf Olsen Papers. Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Papers, 1841 June 22-1946 December 9, undated
1	2	Correspondence, 1857-1892
1	3	Correspondence, 1892-1893
1	4	Correspondence, 1894-1895
1	5	Correspondence, 1896-1896
1	6	Correspondence, 1897-1898
1	7	Correspondence, 1898-1899
2	1	Correspondence, 1900
2	2	Correspondence, 1901-1902
2	3	Correspondence, 1902-1903
2	4	Correspondence, 1904-1905
2	5	Correspondence, 1905
2	6	Correspondence, 1906
2	7	Correspondence, 1906-1907
3	1	Correspondence, 1908-1909
3	2	Correspondence, 1909-1910
3	3	Correspondence, 1911-1912
3	4	Correspondence, 1912-1913
3	5	Correspondence, 1913-1915
3	6	Correspondence, 1915-1917
3	7	Correspondence, 1917-1919
3	8	Correspondence, 1919-1920
4	1	Correspondence, 1921-1922
4	2	Correspondence, 1923-1924
4	3	Correspondence, 1924-1925
4	4	Correspondence, 1926-1936
4	6	Correspondence, 1949-1957
4	5	Correspondence, 1940-1948
4	7	Edvart and Marie Olsen Letters, 1867-1868
4	8	Norway Letters, 1941-1945
5	1	Pamphlets, 1891-1953 Includes: "The Battle of Manila Bay," ("The Bounding Billow" June 1898); "History of the Boston Stone," by Walter S. Wadsworth (circa 1898); "Henrik Wergeland" (1908); advertisement "Long Live the Modern School" with Emma Goldman (1909); issue of "The Open Letter" (published in Monroe, N.Y., Jan. 1916. Issue 1). Included a piece by Eugene V. Debs, "Never be a Soldier"; "Norsemen News notes. Issued Spasmodically in the Interests of

the Norsemen Ski Club," (Brooklyn, N.Y., Jan. 9, 1924. No. 1; Jan. 24, 1924, No. 2); "Flying Rumors," by Roy Davis. (1922); "The Tool Box of a Builder of the Labor Movement. Containing all the Necessary Implements and the by-laws of the trade" (circa 1925); clipping of poem, "Nytaarstanker," by Ansten Anstensen (1927); booklet, "Rational Living," (March 1928. B. Liber, Editor. New York City); Norwegian Singing Society of Brooklyn. 60th Anniversary booklet (1890-1950); "The Poconian Propeller," Pocono Peoples College, Henryville, PA (Aug. 11, 1928. No. 3); "Terje Viken," (translated by H.F. Rosing, 1917); "The Great North Pole Lie," by John Euller (published in Bluebook, Sept. 1953. Proof offered that Admiral Peary did not discover the North Pole); "Rules and Regulations for Guidance of Employees. C.H. Mallory & Co., Pier No. 20, E.R., N.Y." (undated); "Norske Jøssing-sanger," by Leif Nylen (undated).

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| 5 | 2 | Ole Bull clippings and pamphlets, 1929-1952 |
| 5 | 3 | Articles and history Vaterland Skole "Da Kvinnelige studenter var en sjelden vare," 1900-1936 |
| 5 | | Biography, America and Civil War letters, Yukon Gold Rush, 1902-1952
Includes: "The Whatcom Delegation. (nb: New Whatcom was the original name of Bellingham)" by C. Martin Olsen Jr. |
| 5 | 4 | Drawings and reports, 1896-1938 |
| 5 | 5 | Photos of ships, 1896-1943 |
| 5 | 6 | Engineer logs, 1897-1936 |
| 6 | 1 | Viking ships scrapbook, undated |
| 6 | 2 | Diary, 1947-1948 |
| 6 | 3 | Diary, 1885-1886 |
| 6 | 4 | Notebook and diary, 1898-1907 |
| 6 | 5 | Diary, 1894-1898 |
| 6 | 6 | Diary, 1886 |
| 6 | 7 | Family sketches and photos, 1902
By Edvart Olslen. |
| 6 | 8 | Constitution of the International Association of Machinists, 1891 |
| 6 | 9 | Constitution and by-laws for Den Norske Forening i Philadelphia, 1887 |
| 6 | 10 | Norway constitution, 1882 |
| 6 | 11 | Constitution and by-laws Wilmington Lodge No. 184, Wilmington, Delaware, 1891 |
| 6 | 12 | Constitution and Rules of Order Elysian Lodge No. 351 International Association of Machinists, 1900 |
| 6 | 13 | Constitution of the International Association of Machinists. Revised and Adopted by Grand Lodge, Richmond, Virginia, 1893 |
| 6 | 14 | By-laws and Rules of Order of Kensington Lodge, No. 218. International Association of Machinists, 1896 |

6	15	Constitution and By-laws Court Tamanend, Foresters of America, 1897
6	16	By-laws, Marine Engineers' Association. No. 113, Philadelphia, 1897
6	17	Constitution and By-laws Clyde Relief Association, Philadelphia, 1886
6	18	Annual Directory of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association. No. 13, Philadelphia, 1900
6	19	Constitution Den Norske Forening i Philadelphia, 1895
6	20	Notebook, 1894
6	21	S.S. Pennsylvania ship log book, 1896
6	22	Notebook, 1893-1894
6	23	Notebook, 1892-1894
6	24	Notebook, 1893-1909
6	25	S.S. St. Paul notebook and logbook, 1900-1901
6	26	S.S. Navaho ship log book, 1901 March 27-1902 May 12
6	27	S.S. Navaho ship log book, 1901 August 22-1901 December 31
6	28	S.S. Navaho ship log book, 1901 March 25-1901 August 22
6	29	S.S. Navaho ship log book, 1900 October 29-1901 March 24
6	30	S.S. Navaho ship log book, 1900 June 16-1900 October 28
6	31	Engineering notebook, 1901
6	32	Notes and log, 1896
6	33	Ship log book, 1896
6	34	Ship log book, 1895 September 29-1896 May 12
6	35	Ship log book, 1896 September 15-1897 January 1
6	36	Ship log book, 1894
6	37	S.S. Navaho ship log book, 1901 January 2-1901 December 31
6	38	Ship log-book, 1899 August 6 -1899 December 25
6	39	Ship log-book, 1898 April 30-1898 May 16
6	40	Ship log-book, 1899 March 20-1899 August 5
6	41	Ship log-book, 1897 April 12-1897 November 20
6	42	Ship log-book, 1897 January 15-1897 April 10
6	43	Notes, 1900-1901
6	44	Index, undated
6	45	S.S. Chalmette notebook, 1899
6	46	S.S. Algonquin notebook, 1898
8	1	Diary, Emigration to America, 1890
8	2	Diary, 1940-1960
8	3	Diary, 1891-1896
9	1	S.S. Navaho ship log-book, 1902 January 1-1902 June 15
9	2	S.S. Navaho ship log-book, 1902 June 23-1902 March 10
9	3	S.S. Navaho ship log-book, 1903 May 12-1904 January 25
9	4	Ship log-book, 1904 January 26-1904 September 1
9	5	Ship log-book, 1904 September 2-1905 April 29
9	6	Ship log-book, 1905 April 29-1905 October 27
9	7	Ship log-book, 1906 October 28-1906 March 2

9	8	Ship log-book, 1906 March 3-1906 November 1
9	9	Ship log-book, 1906 November 2-1907 July 2
9	10	S.S. Shamson ship log-book, 1907 July 28-1908 April 18
9	11	S.S. Delaware ship log-book, 1907 January-1909 October
9	12	S.S. Delaware ship log-book, 1908 April 19-1908 November 26
9	13	S.S. Pawnee ship log-book, 1907 September 5-1908 October 19
9	14	Ship log-book, 1908 November 27-1909 May 27
9	15	S.S. Delaware ship log-book, 1909 May 28-1909 September 21
9	16	S.S. Delaware ship log-book, 1909 September 22-1910 February 1
9	17	S.S. Santiago ship log-book, 1910 February 1-1910 May 5
9	18	S.S. Santiago ship log-book, 1910 May 6-1910 June 21
9	19	S.S. Santiago ship log-book, 1910 June 22-1910 October 3
9	20	Ship log-book with index, 1910 July 5-1914 December 17
10		S.S. Santiago ship log-books, 1910-1925
10		S.S. Nueces ship log-books, 1915-1923
11		S.S. Coucho ship log-books, 1926
11		S.S. Agwidale ship log-books, 1928
11		S.S. Cherokee ship log-books, 1930-1939