



**Collection Name:**

Bernt J. Muus papers, 1855-1990

**Collection Number:**

P0559

**Extent:**

2.2 cubic feet (5 archives boxes and 1 half archives box)

**Biography/History:**

Bernt Julius Muus was a Norwegian-American Lutheran minister and church leader. He helped found St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. Born in Snåsa, Nord-Trøndelag, Norway on March 15, 1832. He was the grandson of the priest Jens Rynning and the nephew of the emigrant author Ole Rynning. After graduating from the Latin school of Trondheim in 1849, he entered the University of Christiania to study theology and completed his theological training in 1854. In 1859, Muus immigrated to the United States.

Muus was the first pastor of Holden Lutheran Church in Kenyon, Minnesota. Muus also founded St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, Minnesota, Fox Lake Lutheran Church in Rice County, Minnesota and many other churches in southern Minnesota. Muus was also the bishop of the Minnesota District of the Norwegian Synod, took part in theological disputes, and urged the church to do more in the field of education. In 1874, Muus, along with a group of Norwegian-American immigrant pastors and farmers, founded St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. In 1898, due to Muus' uncompromising nature and stubbornness, he was expelled from the church for failure to conform to doctrine.

Muus married Oline Pind in 1859. They had three children, Nils, Jens Ingebrigt Rynning, and Paul Johan Elster. After a lengthy and highly publicised legal battle, Pind was granted a limited divorce on January 20, 1883. Divorce in the Norwegian-Lutheran community was rare at this time.

**Scope and Content:**

Articles, clippings, correspondence, lectures, sermons, court documents, family histories, and notes of a Norwegian-born clergyman and the founder of St. Olaf College. The file includes some Oline Muus letters and papers and the papers of Ole Willem Kluver, a great-grandson of B. J. Muus.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description .</b>
1	1	"Omvendelfe" by Muus, owned by Rølvaag
1	2	Handwritten songbook
1	3	"Søger hjem!," 1881
1	4	"Til mine confirmander," 1890



- 1 5 "Bibelhistorie," 1875, 1882, 1888, 1954
- 1 6 "Driv splittelsen aand ud!," 1893
- 1 7 "Ordinationstale holdt af Pastor B.J. Muus," 1895
- 1 8 "Niels Thorbjornsen Ylviskaer, 1877
- 1 9 "Falift bidnessbyrd af Prof. Weenaas," 1879
- 1 10 Lecture notes: Kirke lære history, 1855
- 1 11 Pictures and clippings, undated
- 2 1 Lecture notes, Kirke lære history, undated
- 2 2 "Niels Muus æt Muus-Slegten i Snaasa," 1642-1942
- 2 3 Judgment and decree, indenture, 1945 April 11-1945 May 25
- 2 4 Oline Muus papers, 1880-1990  
Includes: "A Short History of Thorsby, Alabama," by Pauline Poole Howard; letters to H.A. Preus and B.J. Muus from Oline Muus; "Fruithurst Alabama's Vineyard Village," by Virginia Voss Pope; Oline Pind Muus research material provided by Kathy Ericson (Cannon Falls, MN); "Memories Preserved: Scandinavians in Alabama and Guide to Interviews with Swedish Americans"; clippings.
- 2 5 Articles, books, and correspondence, 1771-1937, undated
- 2 6 "No Compromise!" By Richard Thorud, 1991  
Includes photograph.
- 2 7 Halvor Holte letter, 1886-1890  
Includes letters and receipts from Th. Mohn and B.J. Muus regarding St. Olaf's School. Receipts for B.U. Undergarden, Hans Aslaksen, Lars Christiandsen and Ole H. Osterud included.
- 2 8 H.J. Kopperdahl letter to L. Larsen, 1883 September 23  
Includes letter from Harald Thorson , 1878, and photograph.
- 2 9 Muus vs. Muus pamphlet, 1880 January 20-1880 May 20
- 2 10 Pastor Muus by M.O. Bøckman in Jul I Vesterheim, 1914
- 2 11 Letter from Oline Muus, 1906  
Printed in a Norwegian American newspaper.
- 2 12 "Triple Jeopardy" by Kathryn Ericson, 1987  
From the Minnesota History Magazine.
- 3 1-2 Articles, clippings, and correspondence. 1866-1946  
Includes letter from Joseph Shaw to Forrest Brown regarding Shaw's book on Muus (1999); photocopy manuscript typescript from "For the sake of their Children," by Ellen G. and H.S. Hilleboe (p.688); "Rev. B.J. Muus as I learned to know him," by Rev. S.O. Simonson (circa. 1932); "Fiftieth Anniversary of Foundation Day of St. Olaf College," an historical sketch delivered at St. Olaf College by Olaf Lysnes (Nov. 5, 1924); various church history notes; program for Muus Memorial at Holden Church (1937).



3	3	Article and letters by Ole Wilhem Kluver, 1995 Regarding Norwegian Nazi children.
3	4	Various articles on B.J. and Oline, 1909-1987
3	5	Imprints, undated
3	6	Notebooks, circa 1855
3	7	Notebooks, undated
4	1	UL Church Convention, 1892 June 15-17
4	2	Christelige dogmatik notes, 1851
4	3	Lectures, undated
4	4	Notebook, undated
4	5	"Amerikansk-Luthersk Evangelie-Postille," 1878
5	1	"Amerikansk-Luthersk Evangelie-Postille," 1878
6	1	Compendium notes, undated
6	2	Matthew's gospel notes, 1856