



Collection Name:

Elling Eielsen papers, 1804-1883

Collection Number:

P0074

Extent:

1.2 cubic feet (3 archives boxes)

Biography/History:

Elling Eielsen was born and raised on the farm of Sundve in Voss, Norway. The son of Eiel Ingebrigtsen Sundve and Anna Ellingsdatter Sundsvaal. In Norway, he was brought up in the Lutheran religious tradition of Hans Nielsen Hauge. From 1832-1839, he was a lay preacher who toured around Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, where he was often met with opposition and eventually faced imprisonment

Eielsen immigrated to the United States in 1839 first settling in the Fox River Settlement, LaSalle County, Illinois. In 1843, he was formally ordained as a Lutheran minister by Francis Arnold Hoffmann, a German Lutheran pastor. The Eielsen Synod (originally named the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) was founded at the Jefferson Prairie settlement, Wisconsin, in 1846 by Elling Eielsen. Eielsen is considered the first Norwegian Lutheran minister in the United States.

Scope and Content:

Copies of his baptism and confirmation records; Eielsen's certificate of ordination and of letters by him (1836-1862); transcripts of a 15-page typescript article titled "Haugianer Folket på Sundve Fraasegnuppskrifter" (1931) by Knut Bjørgaas; a thesis (208 pages, 1932) titled "Elling Eielsen: Pioneer Lay Preacher and First Norwegian Lutheran Pastor in America" by Clarence J. Carlsen; an Eielsen bibliography by Olaf M. Norlie (106 pages); a Master's thesis (98 pages, 1946) by Ansgar Sovik and his Norway lectures on Eielsen; a list of Eielsen Synod churches and ministers; and assorted articles, clippings, and pamphlets.

Access Rights:

The collection is open for research.

Bibliographic Citation:

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

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	"Elling Eielsen Lay Preacher and First Norwegian Lutheran Pastor in America" A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Minnesota by Clarence J. Carlsen.
1	2	O.M. Norlie writings
1	3	Annotated Bibliography (fragment), undated



		Typed, 220 pages, in Norwegian.
1	4	"Eielsen Was First, A Bibliography" by O.M. Norlie, 1942 Published by Norlie, bound, 118 pages.
2	1	Knut Bjørgaas article Transcripts of a 15-page typescript article by Bjørgaas, "Haugianarfolket paa Sundve Fraasegnuppskrifter."
2	2	Copies of baptism and confirmation records; Eielsen's certificate of ordination and of letters by him, 1836-1862
2	3	Stall Article, undated "Elling Eielsen: Crusader of the Lutheran Church in America," by Tilford H. Stall.
2	4	O.M. Norlie Writings (correspondence: A-K).
2	5	O.M. Norlie Writings (correspondence: L-Z).
2	6	David J. Quill t ranscriptions Transcriptions of newspaper articles on Eilsen.
2	7	Ansgar E. Sovik Lectures Sovik's thesis, "Elling Eilsen and Some Elements of the Church Strife among Norwegian-American Lutherans in the 1840's and 1850's," (Princeton Theological Seminary, 1946).
3	1	Eilsen books Four copies of Eielsen's Catechism (1925)
3	2	Photographs
3	3	Clippings on Meetings of Eilsen Synod (1905-40). Churches, Pastors. Synod Papers. Lists of Eielsen Congregations founded. Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (two copies, dated 1846, 1850).
3	4	Family history, clippings and art
3	5	Brohaugh/Eisteinsen book, "Elling Eielson" Chicago, 1883 In Norwegian.
3	6	David J. Quill Transcriptions: Books, essays