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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**OLSON, EDWARD**

PAPERS, 1887-1889

(bulk dates, 1887-1889)

Quantity .5 linear ft.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

PRINTED MATERIALS: Printed materials are found in Box 1

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PROCESSED BY: Gayla Koerting, March 2004

## History

Edward Olson was born in Weldre, Norway on August 29, 1847. His parents immigrated to the United States when he was a boy. Olson received his preparatory training at the Academy of Beloit College and the University of Chicago. He traveled extensively in Europe and upon his return was named professor of Greek at the University of Chicago. He suffered a temporary mental collapse in the mid-1880s. Olson then taught at the Union Theological Seminary until he was made the president of the University of Dakota in the fall of 1887. Olson proved to be a very popular president. The university grew under Olson. Faculty members increased to 15 in Olson's first year and grew to 25 by 1889. In June 1888, USD graduated its first student, and by 1889, this number increased to nine, 7 men and 2 women. Unfortunately, Olson lost his life trying to escape a fire at the Tribune Building in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 30, 1889.

## Scope and Content Note

The Edward Olson Collection is composed of two series: **Correspondence, Printed Materials, and Misc.** Unfortunately, the records for the Olson administration, particularly for correspondence, are extremely limited in scope due to the 1893 fire of University Hall (Old Main) which destroyed many of the records.

The **Correspondence** series contains letters written by individuals requesting a catalog of courses or seeking admission into the university. There is also correspondence from companies conducting business with the university. General correspondence is contained in one folder entitled, "A-Z." Incoming and outgoing correspondence for a person or organization with more than 2 letters are contained in one folder; these are listed directly after "General" files.

The **Printed Materials** series includes newspaper clippings and memorials regarding his death.

The **Misc. Materials** include a bound Secretary's book for the university Board of Trustees minutes from 1887-1891.

## Additional Resources:

Cummins, Cedric. *The University of South Dakota, 1862-1966*. Vermillion: University of South Dakota Press, 1975.

## Subjects: University of South Dakota. President—Archives

Olson, Edward, 1847-1889—Archives.

University of South Dakota – History—19<sup>th</sup> century—Sources

College presidents—South Dakota—Vermillion--Archives

CORRESPONDENCE (16 folders)

**Box 1**

General "A-Z" (1 folder)

Allen, Mary E.

1887, Aug. 13

Beadle, W. H. H. (Member of Board of Regents)

1889, Dec. 13

Blair, O.

1887, Aug. 17

Bonte, Philipp

1888, June 7

Dakota Bell Publishing Co.

1889, Oct. 10 (?)

Dakota Huronite

1887, Aug. 13

Deane Steam Pump Co.

1889, Aug. 24

E. L. Hedstrom & Co.

1888, June 25

Harrison Safety Boiler Works

1889, Sept. 19

Hoffman, Michael

1887, Dec. 20

Hubburd, A. O.

n. d.

Johnson, H. E.

1889, April 24

Karr & Richey

1887, Nov. 14

Keuffel & Esser

1888, May 14

Root & Sons Music Co

1889, April 10

Teachers Co-operative Assn.

1887, Nov. 4

United State Electric Lighting Co.

1889, March 11

United States Internal Revenue

1889, March 3

Betts, Henry D. (2 items)

1889, March 12

1889, May 13

Blackmer and Post, Sewer & Culvert Pipe (2 items)

1889, March. 22

1889, Sept. 27

Chicago, Milwaukee, & St. Paul Railway Co. (3 items)

1887, Aug. 22

1887, Dec. 17

1888, Nov. 28

Clough, E. E. (2 items)

1889, April 22

1889, April 29

**Box 1 Cont'd**

**CORRESPONDENCE, CONT'D**

Conklin, J. V., Realtor (10 items)

1887-1888

Elliot, J. D. (2 items)

1889, Feb. 10

1889, March 13

Farley & Loetscher Mfg. Co (4 items)

1887, Nov. 5

1888, Dec. 13

1889, March 15

1889, March 27

Green, Henry J., Manufacturer & Importer of Scientific  
Instruments, (2 items)

1889, Nov. 30

1889, Dec. 24

Hart, Laura, (2 items)

1887, Oct. 19

1887, Oct. 22

Ivers & Pond Piano Co. (4 items)

1887, Sept. 6

1887, Oct. 10

1887, Oct. 19

1887, Oct. 28

Nathan Ford Pianos and Organs (2 items)

1887, Oct. 3

1887, Nov. 30

R. P. Elmore & Co., Dealers in Coal and Pig Iron (3 items)

1887, Aug. 15

1887, Aug. 27

1887, Sept. 12

Remington Standard Typewriter (2 items)

1889, Feb. 9

1889, Nov. 23

Territory of Dakota, Auditor's Office (3 items)

1888, May 2

1889, June 5

1889, June 22

Yankton Press & Dakotaian ( items)

1889, Sept. 7

1889, Nov. 22

1889, Dec. 19

**PRINTED MATERIALS (1 folder)**

"Memorial Service for President Edward Olsen," (2 items)

1889, Dec. 7

"The Great Fire of Nov. 30, 1889," n.d.

"Dr. Edward Olson," South Dakota Alumni Quarterly,  
(Oct. 1905) 5-23

**MISC. (1 folder)**

Secretary's Book (Dawson, E. B.), 1887-1891

University Board of Trustees

