

I. D. WEEKS LIBRARY  
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**PETERSON, AUGUST, 1869-1950**

PAPERS, 1926-1949  
(bulk dates, 1926-1949)  
Quantity 2.5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Mrs. Walter Lingberg, August Peterson's daughter, in 1975.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

PHOTOGRAPHS: The Photographs are located in Box 2. One panoramic photograph is located in Richardson Collection oversize drawer.

PRINTED MATERIAL: The Printed Materials are located in Box 2.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright is held by the University of South Dakota. Permission to reprint material from the papers must be obtained from the Archives and Special Collections of the University of South Dakota.

PROCESSED BY: Anne Hinseth, August 2002  
Doris Peterson, March 2007 update

ACCESSION NUMBER : RC75-0020

## History

August Peterson was born September 23, 1869 in Namdalen, Norway to Peter and Ingeborg Anna Hagen. Peterson's parents died when he was a young man and his family was split up to live with friends and relatives. Before leaving Norway, Peterson was an apprentice painter. In the fall of 1888, he immigrated to America and settled at Dalesburg, in Clay County, Dakota Territory.

Peterson married Anna E. Edlund on Oct. 25, 1893 and they had four children: Helga, Florence, Emma, and James. Peterson was very interested in the history of the Swedish pioneers and kept detailed records on his neighbors. His interest in the settlers led to the publication of his book *History of the Swedes who settled in Clay County, South Dakota, and their biographies*. He was also interested in world affairs and wrote and translated articles about those subjects. August Peterson died January 11, 1950.

## Scope and Content Note

The August Peterson papers were donated in 1975 by his daughter Mrs. Walter (Florence) Lingberg of Vermillion. The Collection consists of seven series: **Correspondence, Diaries, Photographs, Printed Materials, Subject Files, Typescripts, and Ephemera.**

The majority of **Correspondence** consists of letters concerning the writing and publication of Peterson's book *History of the Swedes*. There is also correspondence regarding the campaign of William Jennings Bryan.

Peterson's **Diaries** span from 1926-1949 and concern daily life in Clay County. Peterson kept track of the births, deaths, and marriages of his friends and neighbors. These records are documented in the back of the diaries. Herbert Schell used Peterson's Diaries as a primary source for his book *History of Clay County*. Schell's notes are included in this series.

The **Photograph** series contains two copies of the photograph of Clay County South Dakota indicating the area of about 37500 acres and the names of the 235 Swedish Pioneers who made settlement and obtained patents from US. This photograph is printed in Herbert Schell's *History of Clay County*. Also included is one panoramic photograph of a large unidentified group of people in the Richardson Collection oversize drawer.

The **Printed Materials** contains two Norwegian publications: *Folkebladet*, which includes biography of W. M. Hagen, August Peterson's brother, on page 636, and *Luthersk Ageblad*. Also included are various news clippings. The most notable news clippings are a series of articles that Peterson wrote entitled *The War and Reasons for the War*.

The **Subject Files** series contains materials concerning Reverend Daniel Brown, Dalesburg Band, Dalesburg Churches, Eastern South Dakota Cemetery records, Swedish Pioneer and Historical Society and Clay County Townships. Also included are translations of letters written by Harvey Gunderson who fought in the Civil War. The letters were originally written in Norwegian and Peterson translated them. Only the translated copies are available here; the originals are not included in this collection.

The **Typescripts** series contain essays written by August Peterson and various individuals. They cover a range of subjects including world and local history, poems, folk tales, biographies and news items. Peterson often retyped interesting articles from published materials. He also wrote about the local history. A typescript copy of his *Swedish Settlers in Clay County, South Dakota* is also available. *The Tragedy at Risvaag* is a fictional story based on autobiographical experiences.

The **Ephemera** series consists of three certificates given to August Peterson by American Swedish Historical Museum, National Geographic and Territorial Pioneers of South Dakota.

### **Subjects**

Clay County (S.D.)—History  
Clay County (S.D.)--Swedish Americans  
South Dakota--Swedish Americans; Clay County, South Dakota—Biography  
Swedes in South Dakota.

### **Additional Resources**

Dalesburg, South Dakota Collection, Center for Western Studies, Augustana College

Peterson, August

History of the Swedes who settled in Clay County, South Dakota, and their biographies. [Clay County, S.D.: The Swedish pioneer and historical society of Clay County, S.D., 1947]

CHILSON COLLECTION F657.C6 P48x

Clay County indicating the area of about 37,500 acres and the names of 235 Swedish pioneers who made the settlement and obtained patents from U.S.

[S.l. : s.n., 19uu?]

CHILSON COLLECTION Map 4183 .C5 .E27 1914.

Schell, Herbert Samuel

History of Clay County, South Dakota. Vermillion, S.D.: Clay County Historical Society, c1976.

CHILSON COLLECTION F657.C6 S34x

Box No. Description

---

**Box 1**

## CORRESPONDENCE

## Incoming (1 folder)

Anderson, A.S.

1912, Aug. 16

Anderson, O.S.

1912, Aug. 4

Ayres, Tom

1912, Aug. 22

Bartingale, Tom

1948, Jan. 16 – May 17, n.d. (22 letters)

Bergstrom, Ruth

1948, Mar. 31

Bryan, Charles, W.

1912, July 23

Blount, Julian

1936, Apr. 8

Closson, C.R.

1948, Feb. 3

Coffey, James

1912, Aug. 3 – 23 (4 letters)

Dowdell, R.E.

1912, July 29

Duncan, Anna C.

1948, Feb. 10

Ellis, J. Dee

1947, Sept. 27

Espe, Lyle D.

1947, Oct. 13 and 27

Erickson, Irwin R.

1939, Feb. 18

Faulk, C.O.

1938, July 17

Gamble, Robert

1912, May 20

Gurney, Chan

1939, Sept. 13

George, Curtis R.

1947, Oct. 2 – 1948, May 13 (10 letters)

Gore, Thomas P.

1912, Aug. 16

Hagen, Leonard

1947, Oct. 12 and 25

Hanson, Agnes

1947, Nov. 14 – 1948, Apr. 30 (5 letters)

Harris, L.

1947, Oct. 13

Hitchcock, Herbert E.

1938, Jan. 28

Johnson, E.S.

1912, July 22 - Aug. 25 (3 letters)

Johnson, Walter

1947, Dec. 8 – Dec. 15

Box No. Description

---

**Box 1, cont.**

## CORRESPONDENCE, cont.

## Incoming, cont.

Kiefer, Daniel

1912, Aug. 3

Larsen, Peder

1945, June 20

Lomas, Malcolm

1947, Oct. 1

McCoomls (?), William F.

1912, July 25 – Aug. 5

Merryman, W.S.

1947, Sept. 20

Milek, John T.

1935, Sept. 21

Mundt, Karl

1945, July 28

Norbeck, Peter

1935, Jan. 28 – 1936, Jan. 23 (5 letters)

Norder, Philip

1947, Dec. 14

Nute, Grace Lee

1936, Jan. 2 and 9

O'Brien, W. E.

1945, Aug. 27

Over, W.H.

1941, Feb. 12

1947, Nov. 25

Pettigrew, R. L.

1912, May 30

Pyle, Gladys

1938, Dec. 27

Rasmussen, Eugene

1948, Apr. 26

Reese, M.L.

1941, Mar. 26

Rice, Russell L.

1941, Mar. 20

Schell, Herbert

1935, Apr. 15

Siljenberg, Adelene

1947, Nov. 10

1948, Jan. 28

Smith, Burton K.

1938, Aug. 28

Smith, C.A.

1942, Aug. 18

Soderberg, August

1940, Dec. 19

Taubman, Tom.

1912, July 17

Whitmer, G.R.

1912, Aug. 8

Box No. Description

---

**Box 1, cont.**

## CORRESPONDENCE, cont.

## Outgoing (1 folder)

Agent Chicago and Northwestern Railroad

1948, Apr. 20

Agent C. M. and St. Paul Railroad

1948, Mar. 25

Anderson, Clifford

1947, Oct. 23

Argus Leader Editor

1937, July 27 and Aug. 5

Augustana Book Concern

1947, Sept. 2

Augsburg Publishing House

1947, Sept. 2

Bartingale, Tom

1948, Feb. 2-May 13 (23 letters)

Berstrom, Ruth

1948, Apr. 5

Burgess Publishing Co.

1947, Sept. 10

Carlson, Helmer

1947, Sept. 15

Dennissons Manufacturing Co.

1947, Dec. 17

Duncan, Anna

1948, Feb. 17

Express Publishing Co.

1947, Sept. 25

Faulk, C. O.

1938, Aug. 10

George, Curtis R.

1947, Jan. 7 – 1948, July 12 (18 letters)

Gurney, Chan

1939, Aug. 19

Hagen, Leonard

1947, Oct. 16 and 28

Hanson, Agnes

1947, Nov. 7 – 1948, Apr. 17 (5 letters)

Holmquist, Emma

1947, Nov. 5

Johnson, Walter

1947, Dec. 13

Larson, Peder

1945, June 15 and July

Lyckholm, C. W.

1947, Nov. 4 – 1948, Apr. 30 (3 letters)

Messenger Printing Co.

1947, Sept. 6 and 18

Midwest-Beach Co.

1947, Oct. 1 – 1948, Feb. 6 (5 letters)

Mundt, Karl E.

1945, July 23 and Aug. 7

Box No. Description

---

**Box 1, cont.**

## CORRESPONDENCE, cont.

## Outgoing, cont.

Murphy, Thomas

1947, Sept. 25

Namdalens Folkeblad (6 letters)

1932, Jan. 20 – 1933, Feb. 15

Norder, Philip

1947, Dec. 12 and 16

Over, W.H.

1941, Feb. 14 (2 letters)

1947, Nov. 24

Rasmussen, Eugene

1948, Apr. 22

Rice, Russell L.

1941, Mar. 22

Secretary, Chamber of Commerce

1947, Aug. 16

Secretary, State Historical Society

1942, Aug. 15

1947, Oct. 1

Siljenberg, Adelene

1947-Sept. 20 – 1948, Jan. 23 (5 letters)

Soderberg and Family

1940, Dec. 27

Tollefson, A.A.

1945, Feb. 8

Weverstad, Mr.

1947, Dec. 15

## Miscellaneous (1 folder)

From Cauley(?), E. T. to Norbeck, Peter 1936, Apr. 6

From Coffey, James to Westre, John A. 1912, Aug. 8

From Dinning, William L. to Mundt, Karl E. 1945, Aug. 29

From Dauham, A E. to Pyle, Gladys 1938, Dec. 21

From Funk, Antoinette to Gurney, Charles 1939, Sept. 11

From Funk, Antoinette to Norbeck, Peter 1935, Oct. 22

From Funk, Antoinette to Hitchcock, Herbert E. 1938, Jan. 26

From Johnson, E.S. to Sir 1912, May 17

From Pearson, W. F. to Mundt, Karl E. 1944, Jan. 12 and Jan. 31

From Westre, John A. to Coffey, James 1912, Aug. 12

## DIARIES

1926-1939 (13 folders)

**Box 2**

## DIARIES, cont.,

1940-1949 (10 folders)

Herbert Schell's Notes from August Peterson's Diaries

## MANUSCRIPTS (2 folders)

*Olav Trygveson*

European Royalty Genealogy

Box No. Description

**Box 2, cont.**

PHOTOGRAPHS (1 folder)

Clay County South Dakota indicating the area of about 37500 acres and the names of the 235 Swedish Pioneers who made settlement and obtained patents from US (2 copies in 1 folder)

Panoramic photograph of a large unidentified group of people (oversize)

PRINTED MATERIALS (3 folders)

*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dalesburg Lutheran Church 1871-1946*, 1946, June 21, 25

*Folkebladet, 1936, Oct. 7*

*Gamele Differ famt Digte*, n.d.

*Luthersk Ageblad, 1940*

*Main Facts about Sweden by Naboth Hedin*

Newspaper Clippings

SUBJECT FILES (12 folders)

Brown, Rev. Daniel Peter

Cemetery Records

St. Peters Cemetery

Brooklyn Cemetery, Lincoln County

Lutheran Cemetery, Dalesburg Township

Baptist Cemetery, Dalesburg Township

Komstad Cemetery

Danefield Cemetery

St. John Cemetery

Clay Point Cemetery

Rockfield Danish Cemetery

Dalesburg Band

*A Brief History of Dalesburg Band*

*Dalesburg Band*

*History of Dalesburg Band*

*Story of Dalesburg Band*

Additional Notes about the Band

News clippings about Band

Subscriptions for the Dalesburg Band

Dalesburg Baptist Church Records

Dalesburg Lutheran Church

Dalesburg Lutheran Church Records (Taken from Old Church Records) (2 sets)

Programs at Dalesburg Lutheran Church Midsummer Program June 21 and Seventy Fifty Celebration June 23, 1946

The Sixtieth Anniversary of the Ahlsburg and Dalesburg Evangelical Lutheran Churches, 1931, June 20-23

Danish and German Royal Genealogies

Gunderson, Harvey

*Letters of the Civil War written by Harvey Gunderson while in Service, 1861-1865 Translation from Norwegian by August Peterson (2 copies)*

*My Dad*

*Translation of the Pocket Diary, carried through the Civil War by Harvey Gunderson, Vermillion, SD*

Box No. Description**Box 2, cont.**

## SUBJECT FILES, cont.

Hanson, Johanna

Swedish Pioneer and Historical Society

*Brief History of this Society**By-Laws of the Swedish Pioneer and Historical Society of Clay County, South Dakota*

Death, Birth and Marriage Records Sept. 14, 147 to Sept. 26, 1948

Swedish Pioneer Information

*Answers to Questions of Dec. 22, 1947**The Early Swedish Settlement in Clay County, 1936, Feb. 16**First of May –Celebration by the Swedes**The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region**Regarding Pioneer Swedes who settled on claims in Clay County, Dakota Territory, 1888 and on, 1948, Mar. 22**Vital Statistics regarding the Swedish Pioneers, 1946, Sept. 15*

Miscellaneous Pages

Townships

Alsen

Clay County Registered Voters

Dalesburg

Garfield

Glenwood

Marshalltown School District no. 30

Patentees of Government Claims in Glenwood and Garfield townships also in East Parts of Riverside and Pleasant Valley and the north half of Prairie Center Township, Clay County, SD

**Box 3**

## TYPESCRIPTS (9 folders)

Peterson, August

*“The American Creed”*, 1942, Oct. 28*“Charley Minnetonka” the Indian Medicine Man*, 1944, Aug. 31*Charles Erickson, Clary County Pioneer Dies*, 1937, Apr. 19*Clay County History*, 1937, Apr.*Discovery of Iceland**Divisions in Norway*, 1945, Feb. 26*Historical World Events*, 1941, May 29*History of the Patterson Family**Kings of Denmark**Lutefisk*, 1936*Martin Luther and the 30-years War**The Old Deal and the New Deal*, 1946, Mar.*“The Parable of the Water Tank”*, 1931, Apr.*Pioneers of South Dakota We should Never Forget*, 1942, Aug. 26*Rats in the Beer Vats*, 1947, Sept.*Reminiscences of Yesteryears*, 1949, July 2*Sigurd Jorsalafar**Some History and Origin of the Poll Tax, with some comments etc.*, 1941, Jan. 30*Spirit Mound*, 1944, Apr. 15*The Swedish colony of Clay County*, 1940, Sept. 30*Wild Birds and Legends of Norway*, 1945, Dec. 14

Box No. Description

---

**Box 3, cont.**

TYPESCRIPTS, cont.

Booklets

*Russia*, 1941, Apr.

*Squibs and Darts*, 1940, Sept.

*Swedish History, Vol. I, A-H*, 1943

*Swedish History, Vol. II, H-N*, 1943

*Swedish History, Vol. III, N-W*, 1943

**Box 4**

TYPESCRIPTS, cont.

Booklets, cont.

*Swedish Settlers in Clay County, South Dakota*,  
1939 Feb. 20 (2 vols.); 1946, Nov. 5

*The Tragedy at Risvaag*, 1948, Oct. 21

*War and Reasons for the War*, 1941, Sept. 29

Miscellaneous (2 folders)

*Alexander Dumas* by Theodore G. Bilbo 1938, Feb. 1

*Britannia* by A. Fuhre 1940, July

*Bundles for Britain*

*A Cancer Cure Recipe*

*Captain A. W. Lavender*

*Dalesburg Dramas*

*David Stephen of Sunnyside*, 1945, Feb. 23

*An Early Pedagogue* by A.A. Tollefson

*Eleanor Roosevelt* by Joyce Brooks

*Eulogy of the Dog* by Senator Vest

*The First Swedes to file on Homestead Claims*, 1947, Sept.

*From Congressional Record, Washington, D.C.*, 1947, May 20

*Henry G. Solem*

*History of the Frist Swedes who settled in Clay County, South  
Dakota* by Mrs. Adelene Siljenberg

*How and by whom was our Country Built*

*Iceland* by Rev. David E. Rohism and Rev. E. T. Boe 1941, July 17

*Important Notation*

*The Indictment against Alcoholic Drinks* by Robert G. Ingersol

*It Happened Right Here or the Night After* by Dakota Cal

*John Huss*, 1943, Jan. 26

*Jospeh Ward*

*The Legend of Paul Bunyan and his famous Blue Ox*

*Legends and History of Demark*

*A letter written to the War Department, First World War*

*Marshall Petain of France*

*News of Uncommon nature in the Day's News*, 1941

*Norway and its People* by Alfred Pearce Dennis

*Notes regarding sale of churches in Norway*

*The Passing of the Backhouse* by James Whitcomb Riley

*The Prairie* by H. R. Holand 1936, Sept. 15

*Pairien* (Written in Norwegian) by H. R. Holand, 1909

*The "Preemption", the "Free Homestead" and "Timber Culture*

*Acts" under which Dakota was settled* by G.W. Kingsbury and  
G.M. Smith

*Queen Victoria of England*

*Richard Franklin Pettigrew*

*Senator Hiram Warren Johnson*, 1945, Aug. 15

Box No.	Description
---------	-------------

**Box 4, cont.**

## TYPESCRIPTS, cont.

## Miscellaneous, cont.

Senator Logan's Prophetic Prediction (one copy in Norwegian)

*Sentiments*

*Silver Brollop-Hannah och Olle Hoglund*

*Sven Dufva*, 1935, Dec.

*The Silent Retreat*

*The Star Spangled Banner in 1943*

*The Story of Kersti Ronne* by A.A. Tollefson

*Thomas Paine* by Robert G. Ingersoll, 1871, Jan. 30

*Till Eric Messler's pa dreas 25 ars brollupadag*, 1945, Mar. 1

*An Unsung Chapter in World War II* by Richard W. Lingberg, 1974,  
Mar. 3

*Vug Mig Til Ro*

When the Mirror Broke by O. J. Hustoft

*William Jennings Bryan* by Florence B. Lingberg 1939, Nov. 2

*Yes, We have no Potatoes*

## EPHEMERA (1 folder)

## Certificates

American Swedish Historical Museum, Thanks and Appreciation to  
August Peterson, 1944, June 17

Golden Anniversary Territorial Pioneers of South Dakota, Charter  
Member August Peterson, 1939, Aug. 5

National Geographic Society, Membership, 1949, Feb. 15