

Collection Name: Aasor Halstenson Groth papers, circa 1860-2001

Collection Number: P1491

Extent: 0.8 cubic feet (2 archives boxes)

Abstract: The Groth family, Halsten Assorson Tufte Groth and his wife Ragnhild Kitilsdatter Mørk and their nine children, emigrated from Hol, Hallingdal, from years 1848 to 1852, most of them settling in Clay County, Iowa. Assor, one of the sons, joined the Clausen colony at St. Ansgar in 1854 and lived there until his death. He helped many Norwegians find a home in northern Iowa, in southern Minnesota, and in the Dakotas.

The papers consist of a typed version of a diary and two volumes of letters (photocopies) compiled and arranged by Assor's grandsons, Conrad and Claire Groth. The 155-page diary provides almost daily but brief entries from 1881 to 1898. The letters fall into two categories: "Letters Written by Members of the Family," which in turn is subdivided according to writer. For example, headings such as from Assor, from the Halsten Groth family, from the Ole--- , Svend---, Syver---, Torkel Groth family, etc.

The second overarching category is "Letters Written to the Family," which offers a long list of correspondents from many stations, including C. L. Clausen and Civil War soldiers. "The Story of Assor and Kjirsti Groth" (22 pages), by the Groth brothers, and "Groth Family Record, Including Hou, Gudbrandsgard, Hastenson-Groth and Nasby Branches" (422 pages) is an updated version of an earlier work by Anton C. Groth. For additional information, see Ollie L. Nasby's "Family History and Characteristics" in Norwegian Immigration Articles (NAHA Collection, P 287), which includes "Slegt fortelling af Assor O. Nasby, Petersburg, Minnesota, May 22, 1894" and J. J. Akre's "Gulbryllup: Assor og Astrid Nesby feirer femtiaars-dagen for sitt bryllup."

Box	Folder	Description
1		Two large volumes of photocopies of letters The first volume consists of letters (1865-1935) written by members of the family, specifically: Assor Groth; Johannes Groth; Syver Groth; Torkel Groth; and the families of Halsten Groth, Svend and Margit Houg, Kittel Groth, Ole Groth, and Svend Groth. The second volume consists of letters (1852-1940) written to the family from: Blooming Prairie; Clayton County; C. L. Clausen; Civil War soldiers; Elling Dokken; the Finnesgaard family; Lars Gjeldaker in Aal, Hallingdal; the Lars Paulsen Troo family (cousins); Sigurd Mork in Norway; various locations in Iowa, Minnesota, and Dakota; the Nasby family (cousins); K. S. Nygaard, Dakota territory; Rev. Ole O. Sando; Rev. Svein Olsen Strand; Paul Sletto in Norway.
2		Three volumes, 1884, 1995, 2001

- 1: For Gammel og Ung: Et Tristeligt Familieblad, 3die og 4de Uargang (Chicago: 1884), bound by Assor Halstenson Groth, bookplate: IDUN. no. 30
- 2: Groth Family Record: Including Houg, Gudbrandsgard, Halstenson-Groth and Nasby Branches, Update of 1934 Groth Family Record by Anton C. Groth, Compiled by Claire H. Groth, 422 pp. (1995)
- 3: Jan. 2001 update of Groth Family Record.
- 2 1 Diary, 1874-1898
 Includes: typed copy (155 p.) of Assor Groth's diary, which consists of very brief entries almost daily from 1874-1898. The last several pages are similar notes from his day books (1881-1905) and some family data.
- 2 2 Miscellaneous
 Includes: address of Hjördis (Mrs. Gustaf) Svendsen, Minneapolis; pp. 3-6 of a letter or musings -- 3 pp. in Norwegian, 1 p. in English -- the English p. includes a playful paragraph of large words and A Word to the Legislative Assembly.
- 2 3 Hallingdal to America, 1852
 Includes: Journey from Hallingdal to America, compiled April 1994 by Claire H. Groth, various pagings: photocopies (1849-ca.1854) from the archives of Assor Halstenson Groth, with translations.
- 2 4 "My Trip to Dakota 1901"
 Includes: My Trip to Dakota 1901, by Anton C. Groth, compiled by Claire H. Groth, 16 pp., typescript.
- 2 5 Assor and Kjersti Groth story and descendents, 1991
 Includes: The Story of Assor and Kjersti Groth, compiled by Claire Groth and prepared largely by Conrad Groth, plus various Family Group sheets and information about members of the Groth family.
- 2 6 The Story of A. & K. Groth, 2000
 The Story of Assor and Kjersti Groth compiled by Claire Groth, prepared largely by Conrad Groth (23 pp.), with selected letters (trans.) (1865-1905) from Assor H. Groth (9+pp.).