



Collection Name:

Houkom family papers, 1805-1938

Collection Number:

NAHA 2019/049

Extent:

1.4 cubic feet (3 archives boxes and 1 half archives box)

Biography/History:

Ole Bjørnsen (1783-1856) was born in Laurdal's parish in upper Telemark, where his father was a farmer. In 1802, he was elected church singer and school teacher in Kviteseid. He was educated in Kristiansand under Bishop Hansen, and in 1812 served as conciliation commissioner. Bjørnsen served as a representative of Bratsberg county in the Storting in 1815-16 (Member of 1st: church committee), 1836, 1837, 1839, Og 1842. He was close friends with the priest Jens Zetlitz, who dedicated the 2nd edition of his *Songs for a Norwegian Peasantry* "because he [Bjørnsen] was the most respectable farmer he knew." Bjørnsen belonged to the so-called Zetlitz circle together with Jens Zetlitz and Ole Blom.

Bjørnsen is said to have been among the peasants who fought for the interests of farmers. In September 1815, he put forward a proposal to complete the abolition of the nobility. This was completed through the Nobility Act in 1821. He was also a supporter of abolishing the Conventual poster in 1841, including repealing the Jewish section. Henrik Wergeland, a Norwegian writer, wrote that Bjørnsen was "a priest in his Enlightenment and in his way of thinking. When his voice has been heard, it has always been for a cause which has glorified his humanity."

Ole Bjørnson was married three times: Tone Tollefsdatter Hemmestveit (-1807), Engelev Aslaksdatter Kirkebø (-1822), and Tarjer Aslaksdatter Kirkebø (1800-1875). With his third wife, Tarjer, they had a son Sveinung O. Haukom (now spelled Houkom) married Mari Handsdatter Salteveje in 1849. Sveinung and Mari had eight children, including: Olaf (1850-1920), Targer/Thora (1856-1925), Aslak (1864-1938).

Abstract:

Letters, genealogical material and records from Olaf Houkom who immigrated to the United States in 1870. Olaf attended the Augsburg Luther Seminary in Minneapolis and was an ordained minister with a parish in Manvel, North Dakota in 1886. Included are letters from Aslak Houkom, who migrated in 1887, and records from family member Ole Bjørnson's time in the Norwegian government and Storting (1805-1845).

Box	Folder	Description
Ole Bjørnson		
1	1	Proposals and reports, 1815
1	1	Starting records, 1842
1	2	Correspondence, 1825
1	3	Correspondence to Knut Flect, 1824-1826
1	4	Correspondence, 1820-1836
1	5	Correspondence from Knutsen, 1829-1836
1	6	Correspondence to Ole Blom, 1821
1	7	Correspondence, undated
2	1	Correspondence, 1824
2	3	Notebook, 1838
2	5	Records of marriages, births, and deaths from Kviteseid, Norway, 1815-1881
2	5	Records of marriages, births, and deaths from Brunkeberg, 1815-1836
2	7	Notebook, 1855
2	9	Norway settlement records, circa 1830
2	10	Records and correspondence, circa 1830
2	11	Norwegian almanac with notes, 1822. 1839, 1842
3	1	Correspondence, 1805-1843 Includes correspondence with and about: Thore Thoresen on Juvland farm, Jen Zetlitz, Ole Blum, Soren Zetlitz, seizure and registration of farm Sinnaes/Sinnes, Nils Rasmussen (Married to Gunhild Olsdatter Blom, Jorgen Hansen, Stener Halvorsen, Tarje Sigurdson Hougen, Petter Mandt, Aslak O. Houkom, Hans Nielsen, Lensmann Petter Mandt, and C. Hoy.
3	2	Correspondence, 1812-1826 Includes correspondence from: Amtmand Baron Wedel-Jarlsberg, Egelev Aslaksdater, and Jens Zetlitz.
3	3	Correspondence with Soren Zetlitz, undated
3	6	Notebook, 1836-1858
4	4	Correspondence from Schraach (?) and Hjelm, circa 1922
4	5-6	Correspondence, 1816
4	7	Record book, circa 1830
4	9	Correspondence and records, 1820-1841
Olaf Houkum		
1	8	Correspondence with Augsburg Seminary, 1879-1887, undated
1	9	Correspondence with Thora, 1888
1	10	Correspondence with Thora, 1889
1	11	Correspondence with Thora, 1890
1	12	Correspondence with Thora, 1891-1916

4	3	Correspondence, 1887
		Aslak S. Houkom
2	6	Notebooks, 1930
2	8	Correspondence with R. Berge, 1926-1931
3	4	"The Houkom Ancestry"
3	5	Correspondence from Norway, 1926
4	1	Correspondence to Olaf and Aslak, circa 1870-circa 1880
4	2	Correspondence, 1922-1938
4	8	Correspondence, 1930
1	13	Correspondence to Marius Houkom, 1930-1932
1	14	Wedding invitations, circa 1928
2	2	Notebook, 1859
2	4	Notebook, undated
4	10	Manuscript about Ole Bjørnson, undated