

**Collection Name:**

R.O. Brandt papers, circa 1824-1929

Collection Number:

NAHA 2023/025

Extent:

3.0 cubic feet (5 archives boxes and 1 record center carton)

Biography/History:

Realf Ottesen Brandt was born near Jefferson Prairie, Rock County, Wisconsin in 1859. His father, Nils Olsen Brandt, was born in Slidre, Valdres, Norway. His Mother, Diderikke Ottesen Brandt, was born in Sande Parish, Norway. Nils Brandt was President of Luther College. Realf Brandt graduated from Luther College in 1877, and Luther Seminary in Madison, Wisconsin in 1883.

Realf Ottesen was ordained in 1883 by Rev. U.V. Koren. Throughout his 44 years in Lutheran ministry, he served Deuel County, South Dakota, and McFarland, Wisconsin. Beginning in 1906, he was one of the first editors of the *Lutheran Herald*. Realf Brandt married Thalette "Lettie" Mathilde Galby in 1880.

Scope and Content:

The R.O. Brandt papers consist of various notebooks he kept from 1876-1900, copy books of letters he wrote from 1887-1901, letters from 1906-1907, and a scrapbook created by Lettie Brandt called "Reminiscences of Seventeen Years in the West as a Pastor's Wife" that includes photographs. Also includes letters and documents of Diderikke Brandt.

Access Rights:

This collection is open for research.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. R.O. Brandt Papers. Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	R.O. (Realf Ottesen) Brandt notebooks, 1891-1899
1	2	R.O. (Realf Ottesen) Brandt notebooks, 1884-1889
1	3	R.O. (Realf Ottesen) Brandt notebooks, 1886-1888, 1892-1894
1	4	R.O. (Realf Ottesen) Brandt notebooks, 1883-1900
2	1	R.O. (Realf Ottesen) Brandt notebooks, 1876, 1890-1893
2	2	R.O. (Realf Ottesen) Brandt notebooks, 1878, 1900



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| 2 | 3 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, circa 1890 |
| 2 | 4 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1890-1892 |
| 2 | 5 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1892-1896 |
| 3 | 1 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1896-1898 |
| 3 | 2 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1898-1901 |
| 3 | 3 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1888-1889 |
| 3 | 4 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1887-1901 |
| 3 | 5 | Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1890-1896 |
| 4 | 1-3 | Letters from R.O. Brandt, 1906-1907
Includes a list of letters and subjects. |
| 4 | 4-5 | “Reminiscences of Seventeen Years in the West as a Pastor’s Wife”
scrapbook by Lettie Brandt, 1929 January
Written from Spring Prairie Parsonage, Wisconsin. Includes family
photographs. |
| 5 | 1 | “The Contribution of Norwegian-Americans to the Field of Religious
Literature: A Biography” by Gerhard Brandt Naeseth, 1937 |
| 5 | 2 | Nils Brandt genealogy and documents, 1869-1900 |
| 3 | 3 | Photographs, circa 1895-1900
Includes photographs of Realf, Emma Neaseth, Gerhard Brandt
Naeseth, and Nils Brandt. |
| 5 | 4 | Speeches, poems, and letters, circa 1868-circa1885
Includes introductory speech at the time of the dedication of the
church in Cleveland; speech in the House of Mourners, Decorah
Parsonage, 1885 January 25 at the funeral of Mrs. Brandt by
Professor Larsen on Pastor Koren, a poem to Diderikke by Knud
Thondsen (a student from Oslo); Pastor Preus and his wife
responding to an invitation to the wedding of Brandt’s children;
poem by Brandt to Pastor Preus on his birthday; letter from U.V.
Koren to Brandt discussing payments to Brandt and church; recipe
from Cathinka Otteson to Diderikke explaining how to cure ham as
done in Norway; discussion of a trip to Europe/emigration, 1868;
invitation to Mrs. Brandt for coffee from G. Landmark; Tale of a
vision by Olaf Brandt (potential for a College paper). |
| 5 | 6 | Documents, circa 1824-circa 1885
Includes instructions from the dying Didrikke to Brandt and
children regarding her passing; passport to Pastor Brandt and
wife; short poem in German perhaps written by Didrikke in
connection to the departure of Line Schmidt, circa 1851;
statement/certificate issued by Realf Otteson, minister at Sande,
Norway, stating birth, baptism, and marriage of their daughter
Diderikke Sophie to Nils Brandt; document offering Brandt the |



- position as minister in Decorah signed by members of the congregation; birth certificate and confirmation certificate for Nils Brandt.
- 5 7 Diderikke Brandt correspondence, circa 1840-1855
Includes poems in German, one about her departure for America in 1856; speech given in Wittenberg by Kolbing (in German), 1843; letter from Jacob Otteson (brother); letter from Mary M. circa 1855.
- 5 8 Letters and poems, circa 1870-circa 1891
Includes a letter from Jenny Brandt, 1891; old Swedish songs; and other letters.
- 5 9 Spring Prairie guestbook, Spring Prairie Parsonage, Wisconsin, 1923-1935
- 6 1 Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1892-1898
- 6 2 Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1891-1892
- 6 3 Copy book of R.O. Brandt letters, 1891
- 6 4 Newspapers and clippings, 1903, undated
Includes Signal (1903 July and 1903 August) and various undated clippings.