



Berndt and Westlund Family Papers (SP0073)

Collection Number: SP0073

Collection Title: Berndt and Westlund Family Papers

Dates: 1877-2022

Creator: Berndt Family

Abstract: The Berndt and Westlund Family Papers include historical documents related to property located in Wright County, Missouri, as well as the Berndt and Westlund family of Rock Island County, Illinois.

Collection Size: .3 cubic foot
(6 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Berndt and Westlund Family Papers* (SP0073); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Nancy Larson Alexander on March 22, 2022 (Accession No. SPA0097).

Processed by: Processed by Haley Frizzle-Green, April 4, 2022

Biographical Note:

Evald Ludwig Berndt was born September 9, 1840, in Hällefors, Sweden. He came to America in 1868 and worked in the pineries of Michigan. Later that year, Berndt moved to Moline, Illinois, and began working for Moline Plow Company. He married Margaret Westlund on May

23, 1871. Margaret Westlund Berndt was born September 12, 1845, in Gävleborg, Sweden. She came to America in 1866. Evald and Margaret had eleven children: Dorothea, John, Anna, Ludwig, Phoebe, Jonathan, George, and Haudy. Along with Hattie, two other infants did not survive to adulthood. Margaret died August 7, 1896, in Moline, Illinois. Evald died April 15, 1909, in Moline, Illinois.

Ann Charlotte Berndt was born March 7, 1879, to Evald and Margaret Berndt in Moline, Illinois. She married John Nelson on November 27, 1913. The couple had one daughter, Vivian Berndt Nelson, who was born January 6, 1918. Ann died March 22, 1961, and is buried at Rockaway Cemetery in Moline, Illinois. Vivian Berndt Nelson married Albin Willard Larson on December 27, 1948. The couple had three children, including a daughter, Nancy Larson Alexander. Vivian died December 12, 1999, in Moline, Illinois.

The Berndt family owned property in Wright County, Missouri, from 1893 to 1910. The property was located in Section 15, Township 28, Range 13 West, and contained about 160 acres. The land originally belonged to Peter Colson of Wright County. The Berndt family sold the property to L.D. Caudle in 1910.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into six folders and kept in their original order.

Scope and Content Note:

This items in the collection pertain to the Berndt and Westlund family of Rock Island, Illinois, as well as property located in Wright County, Missouri. The collection includes a Homestead Certificate from the Springfield, Missouri, Land Office, a warranty deed signed by Evald and Margaret Berndt, a letter and corresponding land transfer deed, and obituaries.

This collection also includes copies of two Rock Island, Illinois, Pioneer Descendant certificates presented to Vivian Berndt Nelson Larson and Nancy Larson, and a handwritten letter from Nancy.

Container List:

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| f. 1 | Homestead Certificate, 1877 |
| f. 2 | Warranty Deed, 1893 |
| f. 3 | Obituaries, 1896, 1909, 1961 |
| f. 4 | Letter and Land Transfer Deed, 1910 |
| f. 5 | Pioneer Descendants Certificates, 1976 |
| f. 6 | Letter from Donor, 2022 |

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