

GUSTAVUS 

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LUTHERAN CHURCH ARCHIVES

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**Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Church Archives,
St. Peter, Minnesota**

**Vasa Children's Home. Collection of the Vasa Children's Home,
1865-1997.**

LCA Collection 29

Vasa Children's Home. Collection of the Vasa Children's Home, 1865-1997. LCA Collection 29. 2 Half Hollingers and 2 flat boxes.

ABSTRACT:

The Vasa Children's Home collection contains books as well as articles and other papers regarding the facility. Books include information about the finances, inventory, and residents. Articles share news of the home over a 50 year span, and many programs and brochures are also included. All material in the books is written in Swedish. Vasa Children's home was an orphanage from its inception through 1954 when evolved into a facility for disabled youths and young adults.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

The Vasa Children's Home began in the basement of Vasa Lutheran Church in Welch, Minnesota by Reverend Eric Norelius in 1865 with four orphans. Norelius soon purchased ten acres for the home's eventual expansion and land for farming. In 1876, he transferred supervision of the home to the Board of the Society of Mercy, Minnesota Conference, Augustana Synod. The Vasa Children's home has been rebuilt twice after total destruction: the third building was constructed in 1880 following an 1872 tornado which demolished all buildings, and this structure burned to the ground 1899. The institution relocated to their current location six miles west of Red Wing, Minnesota in 1926. Between sixty and seventy children were housed at the Vasa Children's Home during the early 1900s. In 1954, the home's focus shifted from housing orphaned or neglected children to caring for children with disabilities. The current building was built in 1973 and houses 7-22 year olds with disabilities while their families remain their legal guardians. The Vasa Children's Home is now known for being the oldest children's home in Minnesota and the origin of Lutheran Social Services.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection is divided into three series: administrative, financial, and miscellaneous. The administrative series contains annual reports, minutes, records, and a visitor's log. The financial series includes financial journals, inventory, receipts, and subscriptions. The miscellaneous series is comprised of articles, correspondence, programs, and brochures.

RESTRICTIONS:

There **are** restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the Lutheran Church Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

COLLECTION CITATION:

Vasa Children's Home. Collection of the Vasa Children's Home, 1865-1997. LCA Collection 29. Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Church Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

PROCESSED BY:

Lacie Micek, student worker, processed this collection and developed the finding aid during January 2012.

RELATED COLLECTIONS IN THE ARCHIVES:

Reel 20. Augustana Synod, Minnesota Conference Congregations. Microfilm Reels of Minnesota Conference Congregations, Augustana Synod, Various Dates. LCA Collection 14.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Vasa Children's Home.

Norelius, Eric, 1833-1916.

Vasa Lutheran Church (Goodhue County, Minn.)

LCA Collection 29	Box	Folder
Administrative, 1865-1990		
Annual Reports, 1878-1900	2	1
Annual Reports, 1964-90	1	1
Board Minutes, 1887-1910	2	2
Minutes, 1877-87	1	4
Record Book I, 1865-1914 (RESTRICTED)	3	2
Visitors to the Home of Mercy, 1909-26	4	3
Financial, 1868-1921		
Account Journal, 1882-1911	3	1
Cash Book, 1897-1909	2	3
Finances, 1879-97	2	4
Inventory, 1907-08	4	1
Ledger, 1882-1918	4	2
Receipts and expenses, 1868-72	1	6
Subscription Book, 1921	2	5
Miscellaneous, 1877-1997		
Articles, 1962-90	1	2
Correspondence, 1877-1928, 1954, 1982-97, and undated	1	3
Programs, 1920-26, 1965, and undated	1	5
Services, offices, and homes, 1975-82 and undated	1	7