

# Hidden Treasures No More:

St. Cloud State University Archives and Its Genealogical Resources

Morrison County Historical Society  
Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum

April 11, 2017

# Agenda

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ What is the St. Cloud State University Archives and their collections
- ▶ Genealogical resources available
- ▶ Questions
- ▶ Wrap up

# Introduction

- ▶ Tom Steman, University Archivist and Professor
- ▶ University Archives founded in March 1977 by SCSU president Charles Graham
- ▶ At St. Cloud State since 2007
- ▶ Before coming to St. Cloud State, staff archivist at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio
- ▶ Personal connections to central Minnesota

# What is the St. Cloud State University Archives?

- ▶ Sole employee with a handful of motivated students
- ▶ 6-7 million documents, digital records
- ▶ Our mission is to document the people, property, policy, and programs of St. Cloud State - founded in 1869 as Third State Normal School
- ▶ Celebrating SCSU sesquicentennial, September 2018 to September 2019
- ▶ Miller Center, third floor, room 314
- ▶ Open Monday through Friday, 8am-430pm - I encourage appointments!
- ▶ Closed stacks, climate controlled, reading room for use
- ▶ Former Central Minnesota Historical Center under University Archives' umbrella
- ▶ Much high value material digitized and available anytime at no cost to patron
- ▶ Archon portal provides access to online finding aids and almost 11,000 digital objects:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/index.php>
- ▶ Other material in Archives

# Genealogical Resources at the St. Cloud State University Archives

Institutional records can provide genealogical information. Some online, some not

- ▶ Campus directories
- ▶ Course catalogs
- ▶ Alumni directories
- ▶ Transcript index
- ▶ Campus yearbooks
- ▶ Commencement programs
- ▶ Student newspapers
- ▶ WPA biographical sketches
- ▶ Oral histories
- ▶ Archon portal - download digital objects

# Campus directories

- ▶ 1924 to 2015 online
- ▶ <https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=27&q>
- ▶ Name, address, hometown, year in school
- ▶ Includes employees - faculty, staff, administrators
- ▶ Information depends on the year

# Course catalogs

- ▶ 1869-2012 in print
- ▶ <https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=16&q>
- ▶ Trace curriculum, housing, tuition, fees, enrollment, almost everything, to 1869
- ▶ List of students from 1870s to 1920s by class, sometimes model school students, too
- ▶ List of faculty members - information changes over time

# Alumni directories

- ▶ Alumni directories for 1908, 1940, 1992 and 1998
- ▶ <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/library/archives/histories/alumni.aspx>
- ▶ 2010 alumni directory available in University Archives



# Transcript index

- ▶ Dates from mid-1870s to late 1930s
- ▶ <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/library/archives/histories/transcript-index.aspx>
- ▶ Index to nearly 20,000 names in 15 volumes in University Archives
- ▶ Lists name, age when entered, hometown, father's name, father's occupation, family nationality, and school last attended
- ▶ Lindbergh connection - Evangeline and Lillian Lindbergh both entered St. Cloud State in January 1908

# Campus yearbooks

- ▶ 1902-1904, 1922-2003
- ▶ <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/library/archives/histories/talahi.aspx>
- ▶ Normalia annual:  
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/library/archives/histories/normalia.aspx>
- ▶ Classes, student activities, athletics, faculty/staff/administrators

# Commencement programs

- ▶ 1871-present, with a few missing
- ▶ <https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=7&q>
- ▶ List students, their degree, hometown, and any honors

# Student newspapers

- ▶ Three student newspapers: Normalia (1892-1904), Normal School Recorder (1916-1918), and the Chronicle (1924-present)
- ▶ Normalia:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=21&q>
- ▶ Normal School Recorder:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=22&q>
- ▶ Chronicle - includes negatives/images from 1970s - 1999:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=24&q>

# WPA biographical sketches

- ▶ Done by WPA workers in mid-1930s; helped establish Stearns History Museum!
- ▶ <https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=177&q>
- ▶ Contains 1500+ names with interviews often done by children and/or spouses of the subject
- ▶ Some are simply information copied from published sources

# Oral histories

- ▶ Several collections: St. Cloud State, World War II veterans, central Minnesota (general, politics and legislators, church)
- ▶ St. Cloud State:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=36&q>
- ▶ World War II veterans:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=144&q>
- ▶ Central Minnesota - General:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=182&q>
- ▶ Central Minnesota - Legislators and Politics:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=183&q>
- ▶ Central Minnesota - Church:  
<https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&id=184&q>

# Genealogical Resource Summary

- ▶ St. Cloud State University Library subject guide:

<http://stcloud.lib.mnscu.edu/subjects/guide.php?subject=Archives>

# Archon portal

- ▶ Archon portal located at: <https://libsys.stcloudstate.edu/archon/index.php>
- ▶ 10,000 digital objects, mostly images
- ▶ 60+ finding aids to “processed” archival material
- ▶ Search across digital objects, finding aids, subject headings, and name
- ▶ Search and download images - no cost, no signup, no nothing
- ▶ Ask that the University Archives is properly credited



# Archives website and social media

- ▶ Archives website located at:  
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/library/archives/default.aspx>
- ▶ Digital exhibits regarding presidents, buildings, KVSC trivia, library history, and well-known campus visitors
- ▶ Links to information summaries for SCSU “structure”, Chronicle index, seals, and link to YouTube channel - and more!
- ▶ Very active FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Cloud-State-University-Archives-1511387999095772/>

QUESTIONS?

# Contact information

Tom Steman

Miller Center Room 314

Email: [archives@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:archives@stcloudstate.edu)

Telephone: 320-308-4753

Website:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/library/archives/default.aspx>