

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

**Benson, Henry Nathaniel. Papers of Henry N. Benson Sr., 1893-
1960.**

GACA Collection 341

Benson, Henry Nathaniel. Papers of Henry N. Benson Sr., 1893-1960. GACA Collection 341. 2 Records Center Cartons and 1 ½ Hollinger boxes.

ABSTRACT:

The Henry Benson collections contains correspondence, memos, reports, legal arguments, speeches, and certificates created throughout Benson's adult life. Benson graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1893. He served on the college's Board of Trustees and was active in both the Augustana Lutheran Church and Minnesota politics as a state senator and as the state's Attorney General. The largest portion of these materials are texts of Benson's speeches.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Henry Nathaniel Benson, Sr. (1 August 1872 – 10 May 1960) graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1893 and from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1895. He had his own law practice in St. Peter, Minnesota. Benson served on the Gustavus Adolphus College Board of Trustees from 1902-1944, as Treasurer from May 1903 – March 1906 and President from December 1916 – May 1944. Following active service on the Board he was elected President emeritus. He was also Chairman of the Committee for the Augustana Pension Fund and was founder and first President of the Lutheran Brotherhood of the Augustana Lutheran Church. He served in the Minnesota State Senate from 1910-1922 and was the state's Attorney General from 1929-1932. In addition, Benson was a Nicollet County Probate Judge, a founding member and leader of the Nicollet County Historical Society, and an Executive Board member of the Minnesota State Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection is divided into seven series: Church, Correspondence, Gustavus, Law, Politics, Speeches, and Miscellaneous.

Church, 1922-1957 and undated encompasses materials related to church work, from his local congregation to the national synod. This includes correspondence, memos, reports, and financial pledges for groups such as, the Augustana Brotherhood, the Augustana Pension and Aid Fund, and the Lutheran World Convention.

Correspondence, 1914-1960 and undated holds correspondence organized alphabetically. Correspondence is both to and from Henry Benson, and relates to all different aspects of his career and life.

Gustavus, 1908-1958 and undated consists mostly of correspondence related to his position on the Swedish Lutheran Board of Education (the college's governing board). Also included is a history of the school, some certificates, and membership materials.

Law, 1931-1960 and undated contains certificates, legal arguments, materials related to both specific cases and legal fees.

Politics, 1931-1960 and undated incorporates different political activities and organizations in which Benson participated. This includes the 1911-1913 State Senate

Association, the John Ericsson Republican League of Minnesota, and the Minnesota United Nations Committee.

Speeches, 1893-1956 and undated consists of speeches Benson delivered. Topics and venues vary widely and many are undated. Materials are arranged by title and general theme.

Miscellaneous, 1913-1960 and undated is composed of birth, marriage, appreciation certificates, daily planners, funeral materials, Minnesota Historical Society correspondence, materials from the Minnesota Centennial and Territorial Centennial, the Mayo Memorial Commission, the Swedish-American Tercentary, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

RESTRICTIONS:

There are no restrictions on the 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 College Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

COLLECTION CITATION:

Benson, Henry Nathaniel. Papers of Henry N. Benson Sr., 1893-1960. GACA Collection 341. Gustavus Adolphus College Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

PROCESSED BY:

Adrianna Darden processed this collection and developed the finding aid during May 2013.

RELATED COLLECTIONS IN THE ARCHIVES:

Benson, Henry N., Sr. and Henry N. Benson, Jr. Materials concerning duties of the Gustavus Board of Trustees and Related Church Organizations, 1877-1980s. GACA Collection 163.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Benson, Henry N. (Henry Nathaniel), 1872-1960.
Gustavus Adolphus College. Board of Trustees.
Gustavus Adolphus College--Swedish Lutheran Board of Education.
Gustavus Adolphus College--Finance.
College trustees--Minnesota--St. Peter.
Gustavus Adolphus College--Alumni.
Minnesota. Legislature. Senate.

GACA Collection 341	Box	Folder
Church, 1922-1957 and undated		
Augustana Brotherhood, Correspondence, 1922-57	1	1
Augustana Brotherhood, History, 1946 and Sight Seeing Tour of St. Peter, 1954	3	1
Correspondence, Augustana Pension and Aid Fund, 1946 and 1953-55	1	2
Correspondence regarding Women's Roles in the Church, 1950-51	1	3
Correspondence, Synod and Conference, 1931-48 and undated	3	2
Lutheran World Convention, Correspondence, Memos, and Reports, 1929	1	4
Trinity Lutheran Church (?), Pledges and Payments, 1947-48	3	3
Correspondence, 1914-1960 and undated		
A-D, 1931-58 and undated	1	5
E, 1932-59 and undated	1	6
F-G, 1934-60 and undated	1	7
H, 1914-59 and undated	1	8
I-K, 1914-59 and undated	3	4
L, 1932-60 and undated	3	5
M-N, 1923-60 and undated	1	9
O, 1914-60 and undated	1	10
P-R, 1923-59 and undated	1	11
S, 1914-60 and undated	1	12
T-W, 1915-59 and undated	1	13
Y, 1923-59 and undated	1	14
From Family, 1942-59 and undated	1	15
Unknown, 1944-60 and undated	1	16
Gustavus, 1908-1958 and undated		
Correspondence, Financial, Bond Investments, 1921-44 and undated	3	6
Correspondence, Financial, General, 1900-19	1	17
Correspondence, Financial, General, 1920-29	3	7
Correspondence, Financial, General, 1930-44	3	8
Correspondence, Financial, Greater Gustavus Fund, 1930-48 and 1958	1	18
Correspondence, Financial, Gymnasium/Field House Building Fund, 1920-23 and 1938-39	3	9
Correspondence, Financial, Library Building Fund, 1934-43 and undated	3	10
Correspondence, Financial, Payments in Arrears, A-Kl, 1934-53	1	19
Correspondence, Financial, Payments in Arrears, Kn-Sa, 1932-56	1	20
Correspondence, Financial, Payments in Arrears, Sc-Z, 1934-52	1	21
Correspondence, General, 1933-55 and undated	1	22
Correspondence, Radio Station, 1955-56 and undated	1	23
Correspondence, S.S. Gustavus Victory, 1945	1	24

Correspondence, Swedish Lutheran Board of Education, General, 1908-09 and 1925	4	1
Correspondence, Swedish Lutheran Board of Education, General, 1930-39	1	25
Correspondence, Swedish Lutheran Board of Education, General, 1940-42	4	2
Correspondence, Swedish Lutheran Board of Education, General, 1943-May 1945 and undated	1	26
Correspondence, Board of Trustees, General, June 1945-48	1	27
Correspondence, V-12 Program, 1942-45	4	3
Correspondence, Women's Dorm, 1936-40	1	28
Greater Gustavus Endowment Corporation, Certificate of Membership, 23 May 1927	1	29
"Gustavus Adolphus College, 1900-1937" by Henry N. Benson, 6 June 1937	1	30
Membership Cards, Alumni Association, undated; Greater Gustavus Association, 1944-46	1	31
Law, 1919-1956 and undated		
Certificate from American Law Reports Service Bureau, 1 May 1919	1	32
Legal Arguments, undated	1	33
Legal Materials Regarding Sale of Land in Jordan, Minnesota for Donald Lindstrand, 1948-56	4	4
Materials Regarding Fees for Legal Services, 1927-37 and undated	4	5
Politics, 1931-1960 and undated		
1911-1913 State Senate Association, Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, and Photographs, 1940-60 and undated	1	34
1911-1913 State Senate Association, Minutes, 1940 and 1952-59	4	6
John Ericsson Republican League of Minnesota, 1931-52 and undated	1	35
Minnesota United Nations Committee, Correspondence, 1943-55 and undated	2	1
Minnesota United Nations Committee, Minutes, Constitution, and Mailings, 1943-51 and undated	4	7
Senate Re-election Campaign Flyer, undated	2	2
Speeches, 1893-1956 and undated		
"Abraham Lincoln," College Chapel, 12 February 1940	2	3
"Address Upon the Life and Service of the Late Honorable Carl J. Swendsen," delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Swedish American Historical Society, 8 December 1933	2	4
On Appointment as Attorney General, St. Peter, Minnesota, November 1929	2	5
Arlington High School, 10 June 1937	2	6
To Augustana Brotherhood, 14 August 1954	2	7
About Belgrade Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota, undated	4	8
"The Benevolent Spirit of the Augustana Synod," undated	4	9

Bernadotte Brotherhood, 11 August 1941	2	8
Brotherhood of Bethlehem Church of Mankato, Minnesota, 24 March 1936	2	9
Brotherhood Talk, Fargo, North Dakota, 11 June 1932	2	10
Butler-Mitchell Portrait Presentation, Minnesota Historical Society, 3 April 1947	2	11
“The Churchman as a Citizen,” undated (pages missing)	2	12
To Citizens of Wilmington, undated	4	10
“Citizenship,” Radio Address, undated (pages missing)	2	13
“Civic Night” Program at the Augustana College and Theological Seminary’s Seventy-fifth Anniversary, 4 June 1935	2	14
“The Clergy and the Laity,” undated	4	11
Commencement Address, 1936	2	15
Commencement, Nicollet, Minnesota, 2 June 1939	2	16
“The Constitution of the United States,” undated	2	17
County Auditors, undated	2	18
County Commissioners Convention, undated	2	19
“Crime and its Relation to Society and Church,” undated	2	20
“The Crime Situation,” Post Masters Convention, Mankato, Minnesota, June 1934	2	21
“The Declaration of Independence,” undated	4	12
Dedication of Dorm at Gustavus, undated (pages missing)	2	22
Dedication of Stadium on Gustavus Field, 5 October 1929	2	23
Dedication of Women’s Dorm at Gustavus, 16 July 1939	2	24
Diamond Jubilee, Scandian Grove Church, 1933	2	25
“The Dominant Note,” undated	2	26
“Ethiopia,” undated	2	27
To Fellow Citizens of Northfield and Rice County, and the Radio Audience, undated	2	28
To the Fireman’s Association, undated (pages missing)	2	29
First Lutheran Church, Scandian Grove, Minnesota, Anniversary, undated	4	13
First National Bank 100 th Anniversary, undated	2	30
About George Washington, 1939 and undated	2	31
Gifts to Governor Theodore Christianson and Mrs. Christianson, 5 January 1931	2	32
“The Greater Brotherhood,” undated (pages missing)	2	33
Greater Gustavus Association Award at Augustana Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 25 April 1946	2	34
Gustavus Adolphus College Alumni Banquet, 80 th Anniversary, 1942	2	35
“Hälsingland,” 2 August 1931	2	36
High School Commencement, 1934	2	37
History of the Augustana Brotherhood given at the Synodical Convention, 1923	2	38

“The History of the First Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Scandian Grove, of Nicollet County, Minnesota,” given at its Seventieth Anniversary, 26 May 1928	2	39
“The Importance of the Small College,” undated	2	40
“Influence of Women in Public Life,” undated	2	41
Introduction of President Lunden at Inauguration, 1942	2	42
“John Sander,” undated	2	43
To the Junior Pioneers of Brown County, New Ulm, Minnesota, 8 October 1955	2	44
“The Layman’s Prerogative,” undated	4	14
“The Legal Status of Women,” undated	2	45
“Lessons from Lincoln’s Life,” Rockford, Illinois, 12 February 1931	2	46
“Lutherans: Our Contribution to American Life,” undated	2	47
“Matthias Wahlstrom,” undated	2	48
Memoranda for Dr. Olson Talk, Trinity Lutheran Church, undated	4	15
Memorial Day Address, Gibbon, Minnesota, 30 May 1939	2	49
Memorial Day Address, Le Center, Minnesota, 30 May 1941	2	50
Memorial Day Address, Winthrop, Minnesota, 30 May 1935	2	52
Memorial Proceedings for the late George T. Olson, 1 May 1950	2	53
“Memorial Proceedings for the late Marshall E. Stone,” 5 May 1952	4	16
Midsummer Day, Duluth, Minnesota, undated	2	54
Minnesota State Conference and Institute of Social Workers, undated	4	17
“New Frontiers, Why a College Education?,” undated	4	18
“Norse Mythology,” Commencement Address, Gustavus Adolphus College, 18 May 1893	4	19
“Old and New Church Building,” Scandian Grove Church, Norseland, Minnesota, June 1943	2	55
“Old Settlers,” Alexandria, Minnesota, 11 September 1932	2	56
Old Settlers Gatherings, Le Center, Minnesota, 21 June 1936 and 5 August 1945	2	57
Old Settlers Picnic, Mankato, Minnesota, 9 August 1945	2	58
“One Hundred Years of History and Progress,” Nicollet County Farm Bureau, 23 June 1949	2	59
“The Opportunity for Service,” undated	2	60
Ottawa, 1954	2	61
“Patriotism,” undated	2	62
“Price of Progress,” Commencement Talk, undated	2	63
“Rundstrom,” 24 September 1940	2	64
Scandian Grove Lutheran Church 90 th Anniversary, 10 July 1948	2	65
Sibley County, Minnesota, 30 May 1952	2	66
Springfield, Minnesota, undated	2	67
State Medical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, 23 January 1932	2	68
Stewardship Rally, Messiah Church, 28 October 1935	2	69
“The Supreme Challenge,” undated	2	70
For Svea Society at Gustavus Convocation, 1 May 1956	2	71

Svithiod Order, Excelsior, 26 June 1938	2	72
“The Tercentary Anniversary of the Swedish Settlement in Delaware,” for the Svea Society, Gustavus Adolphus College, 14 December 1936	2	73
Testimonial Dinner, 12 July 1944	2	74
Traverse dex Sioux History, Hutchinson, Minnesota, June 1930 and 21 June 1955	2	75
Union Hospital, 12 May 1933	2	76
University of Minnesota Law Banquet, April 1930	2	77
“The Value of Education,” High School Talk, undated	2	78
“Värmland,” undated	2	79
“Warren Gamaliel Harding,” undated	2	80
“What Services a Lawyer is Prepared to Offer,” undated	4	20
“The World Court,” Kiwanis Club, Mankato, Minnesota, undated	2	81
Worthington, Minnesota, 18 August 1935	2	82
YMCA, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 3 June 1930	2	83
“Young Republicans,” undated	2	84
Miscellaneous Pages from speeches, undated	2	85
Miscellaneous, 1913-1960 and undated		
Birth Certificate, 1929 and Marriage Certificate, 1929	4	21
Biographies, undated; and Toast, 14 November 1929	2	86
Daily Planners, 1943-44	2	87
Daily Planners, 1945 and 1947	2	88
Funeral Program and Address, 1960	2	89
Funeral Service Information for Malena Benson (mother), 14 April 1929 and Mrs. Henry Benson, 18 August 1942	2	90
Mayo Memorial Commission, 1940-47	1	36
Minnesota Centennial, St. Peter and Nicollet County Celebrations, 1957-58 and undated	4	22
Minnesota Historical Society, Correspondence, 1934-49	2	91
Minnesota Historical Society, Correspondence, 1950-59 and undated	2	92
Minnesota Historical Society, Life Membership Certificate, 4 May 1929	2	93
Minnesota Territorial Centennial, Correspondence, 1946-49	2	94
Minnesota Territorial Centennial, St. Peter and Nicollet County Celebrations, 1948-49 and undated	4	23
Minnesota Territorial Centennial, News Releases and Newsletters, 1947-49 and undated	2	95
Minnesota Territorial Centennial, Reports and Planning Materials, 1946-49 and undated	2	96
Near East Foundation, Certificate of Appreciation, 1955	2	97
Newspaper Clippings, 1914-58 and undated	4	24
Photographs, 1913, 1915, and undated	2	98
Swedish-American Tercentary, 1925-38	2	99