

GUSTAVUS 
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

LUTHERAN CHURCH ARCHIVES

Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library
Gustavus Adolphus College
800 West College Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082-1498

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

**Northwestern College. Collection of Northwestern College, 1900-
1944.**

LCA Collection 57

Northwestern College. Collection of Northwestern College, 1900-1944. LCA Collection 57. 1 Records Center Carton, 1 Hollinger box, 2 half Hollinger boxes, 1 flat box, and 1 oversize folder.

ABSTRACT:

The Northwestern College collection includes alumni information, meeting minutes from faculty and student organizations, correspondence, and a certificate from the school's short existence. Correspondence was primarily in the possession of Carl Solomonson, president of the school from 1915-19. Northwestern was a secondary school (rather than an actual college) supported by the Augustana Synod from 1900-1932. After graduation, many students went on to attend Gustavus Adolphus College. Northwestern struggled with debt throughout the majority of its existence. The institution ceased operations in 1932, and the property was sold in the 1940s.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

Northwestern College was a high school located in Fergus Falls, Minnesota which offered Commerce, Music, and Academy departments of study from 1900 through 1932. It was funded by the Northwestern College Corporation of the Augustana Synod. The school had two literary societies, Aurora and Tegner (organized in Swedish), a prayer circle, and musical organizations. There was no gymnasium, so Northwestern College rented the local high school gymnasium once a week to practice basketball. Although there were no requirements for physical fitness, the school had two tennis courts and sometimes two baseball teams. The school suffered an influenza epidemic in 1918, a 1919 tornado, and a fire in 1928. During years of low enrollment, some classes were offered every other year, and one year funds were so low the students performed the janitor's duties. Over 500 students graduated from the school (around 1500 had attended), and many students attended Gustavus Adolphus College after their time at Northwestern. Although donations were made to help ease the school's financial burdens and the school eventually paid off their debt, Northwestern College closed in 1932 and was sold in the 1940's for \$12,500. Proceeds of the sale were given to the charities of the Augustana Synod's Minnesota Conference.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection consists of four series: Administrative, Alumni, Faculty and Departments, Miscellaneous, and Students.

Administrative, 1900-32: This series includes materials necessary for the organization of the school, such as a cash book and meeting minutes.

Alumni, 1908-44: The Alumni series contains meeting minutes, reunion, and employment information.

Faculty and Departments, 1904-31: Faculty and Departments is comprised of faculty meeting minutes and information about Northwestern's commercial and music departments.

Students, 1901-29: The Students category contains information about student organizations, prospective students, and student records.

Miscellaneous, 1915-32: This series includes some correspondence and information about various school issues, such as food conservation and prohibition.

RESTRICTIONS:

There are no 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:

Northwestern College. Collection of Northwestern College, 1900-1944. LCA Collection 57. Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Church Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

PROCESSED BY:

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

RELATED COLLECTIONS IN THE ARCHIVES:

Northwestern College Club of Gustavus Adolphus. Constitution and Minutes of Northwestern College Club, 1915-1916. GACA Collection 121.

DIGITAL CONTENT:

Portions of this collection have been digitized and are available online through our [digital collections](#).

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Northwestern College (Fergus Falls, MN).
Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church. Lutheran Minnesota Conference.
Solomonson, Carl, 1871-1928.

LCA Collection 57	Box	Folder
Administrative, 1900-32		
Accreditation to the University of Minnesota Application, 1917	2	3
Board of Directors minutes, 1929-32	1	4
Campus Employment, 1915-24	2	5
Cash Book, 1912-24	1	5
Catalogs, 1901-08	4	1
Catalogs, 1908-15	4	2
Catalogs, 1915-22	4	3
Certificate of Incorporation, 1903	Map Case	--
Clippings and Events, 1900-10	1	6
Cook Position, 1917	2	11
Corporations minutes, 1900-19	1	7
Corporations minutes, 1920-32	1	8
Disaster Insurance Claims, 1917-18	2	16
Information about school advertising, 1916-18	2	22
Letter to Congregations, 1927	1	12
Letters to parents concerning students, 1921-24	2	24
Northwestern College seal, undated	3	--
Northwestern College stamp, undated	3	--
Principal's Annual Reports, 1905-10	1	13
School sale merger, 1918 and undated	2	33
Student Solicitor Applicants, 1916-17	2	4
School Solicitor, J. Elmer Spangler, 1917	2	23
Teacher and church work applicants, 1916-17	2	37
Tuition fees, 1922-24	2	38
Work for board, 1919-23	2	13
Alumni, 1908-44		
Alumni, 1917-18	2	1
Alumni Association constitution and minutes, 1908-10	1	1
Alumni Reunions, 1941-44	2	2
Graduates employment, 1915-23	2	21
Rolls of Alumni, 1922-27 and undated	1	15
Faculty and Departments, 1904-31		
Commercial Department, 1917	2	10
Faculty Meeting minutes, 1904-07	1	9
Faculty Meeting minutes, 1907-16	1	10
Faculty Meeting minutes, 1912-31	1	11
Olive Pearson, music department, 1917	2	27
Students, 1901-29		
Aurora Literary Society, constitution and minutes, 1901-04	1	2
Aurora Literary Society, Literary Journal, 1901-31	5	2
Aurora Literary Society, Literary Journal, 1905-08	5	3
Aurora Literary Society, minutes, 1913-28	1	3

Aurora Literary Society, Secretary's Book, 1927-32	5	1
Bulletin, and Commencement programs, 1906-29	2	7
Commencement Activities, 1917-18	2	9
Earnest A. Martell's Alma Matter speech, 1917	2	18
New students, 1918-19	2	26
Prospective students, 1918-24 and undated	2	30
Register of students, 1901-23	1	14
Returning students, 1918-21	2	32
Students' behavior, 1916-19	2	34
Student debts, 1915-18	2	35
Student records, 1916-24	2	36
Svenska Tegner Förbundet (minutes from students in the School of Commerce), 1915-16	1	16
Miscellaneous, 1915-32		
Campus Entertainment, 1917	2	6
City Council Activities, 1916	2	8
Correspondence in Swedish, 1912-24	2	12
Correspondence with Lutheran Church in America, 1982-83	2	13
Correspondence with P.E. Ording, 1920-24 and undated	2	14
Correspondence with Rev. Oscar Gustafson, 1930-32 and undated	2	15
Donations and Thank You's, 1916-1923	2	17
Food conservation, 1918	2	19
Governmental Issues, 1917-18 and undated	2	20
Miscellaneous, 1917-19	2	25
Organ maintenance, 1918	2	28
Prohibition, 1917 and undated	2	29
<i>The Northwestern College Quarterly</i> , 1905-12	4	4
Religious matters, 1916-18	2	31