



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: The Stegman Family Papers
Collection #: Ms B64
Dates: 1850-1961
Size of Collection: 1-1/2 linear ft (4 boxes)
Accession Number: L96 Jan 5
Donor: Mr and Mrs Herbert C Nowach; Edwin C Schmidheini
Restrictions: None
Processed by: Barbara E Austen
Date: December 1995

Biographical/ historical note:

Henry John Stegeman (1828-1898) and his wife Augusta Schmidt (1836-1916) owned a farm in the Holland Hill District (Jennings Road) of Fairfield in the 1890s. Both were born in Germany. Augusta's father was Elias Schmidt (1805-1889). Henry and Augusta had children Charles (1858-1938), Emma (1864-1954), Eva (1867-1962), Anna Marie (1868-1953), Bertha (1872-73), Henry John Jr. (1873-1961), and Dora Martha (1880-1907). Emma and Eva never married, and evidently lived on the family farm. Dora married Edward H. Higley and they had a daughter Gennevia. Gennevia married Frederick P. Schmidheini; their sons were Edwin (the donor of portions of the collection) and Laurence. The Langer family was related by marriage. For additional information, see the family group sheets and pedigree chart in the collection folder.

Scope and content note:

The collection is arranged by relationship of the family members whose photographs comprise the bulk of the material. Immediate members of the Stegeman family are arranged in series by birth order. Henry J. Stegeman, Sr., as the patriarch, is listed first. Included with his photographs are some financial papers, a quitclaim deed for land in Fairfield, 1875, photographs of his wife Augusta, and photographs and a German passport, 1850, for Elias Schmidt (Augusta's father). Henry's children are then arranged in order of their birth, each with their own series. Of particular interest are German taufscheins (birth certificates) signed in Bridgeport for Eva, Bertha and Dora. Eva's papers also include a letter from missionary Charles Ewing in Tientsin, China in 1895; pictures of the Wynona Bicycle Club, of which she was president; a membership card in the League of American Wheelmen, 1899; materials relating to the Faith Congregational Chapel, 1894-1927, in which she was an active member; and a license to carry a gun, 1907. Henry Stegeman Jr.'s papers include legal papers relating to an act of replevin against his wife, 1905, and a program for a meeting of the Bridgeport I.O.O.F. in 1930.

The Series entitled Related Stegeman Families Papers include a photograph album; a memoranda book with birth, marriage and death dates for family members; a paper napkin with Lillie Ross's name inscribed in pencil, 1899; and photographs of the Langer family, the family doctor Donovan and the Stegeman homestead on Jennings Road. Additional photographs represent identified as well as unidentified family and friends. Memoranda within this series include a list of "gifts," 1916; an estate inventory, n.d.; New Year's greetings from Samuel Morehouse, 1897; and greeting cards. In the printed materials are a history of the Fairfield County Farm Bureau, postcards, and a 1900 Bridgeport almanac.

Series A.	Henry Stegeman Sr. Papers, 1850-1898	Box 1
Series B.	Charles Stegeman Family Papers, ca. 1850-1916, 1930	Box 1
Series C.	Emma Stegeman Papers, 1876-1898	Box 1
Series D.	Eva Stegeman Papers, 1873-1927, 1961	Box 1
Series E.	Anna Marie Stegeman Papers, 1882-1892	Box 1
Series F.	Bertha Stegeman Papers, 1873	Box 1
Series G.	Henry J. Stegeman Jr. Papers, 1880-1957	Box 1
Series H.	Dora Martha Stegeman Higley Papers, 1880-1907	Box 2
Series I.	Gennevia Higley Schmidheini Papers, 1903-1917, 1927	Box 2
Series J.	Frederick Schmidheini Papers, 1916-1924	Box 2
Series K.	Laurence Schmidheini Papers, 1920-1941	Box 2
Series L.	Edwin C. Schmidheini papers, 1936-1939	Box 2
Series M.	Related Stegeman Families Papers, ca. 1865-1916	Box 2, 4

See also museum accession of knife and fireman's badge.

STEGEMAN FAMILY
Papers, 1850-1961

Box 1

- Series A. Henry Stegeman Sr. Papers, 1850-1898
- Folder 1. Photographs, 1889
 - Folder 2. Promissory note, 1865; receipt, 1874; deed, 1875; memorial card, 1898
 - Folder 3. Photographs of Augusta Schmidt, n.d., 1916
 - Folder 4. Photographs of Elias Schmidt portrait, n.d.
 - Folder 5. Elias Schmidt passport, 1850; death notification, 1856; memorial card, 1889
- Series B. Charles Stegeman Family Papers, ca. 1850-1916, 1930
- Folder 1. Charles Stegeman and wife photograph, ca. 1850-1880
 - Folder 2. Clara Stegeman photographs, 1895-1904
 - Folder 3. Otto Stegeman photographs, 1892-1907
 - Folder 4. Betty Stegeman photographs, 1916, 1930
- Series C. Emma Stegeman Papers, 1876-1898
- Folder 1. Photographs, ca. 1876, 1884-1896
 - Folder 2. Thank you note, 1898; portrait photographs, ca. 1890
- Series D. Eva Stegeman Papers, 1873-1927, 1961
- Folder 1-2. Portrait photographs, 1874, 1888-1913
 - Folder 3. Wynona Cycle Club photographs, 1894-1896
 - Folder 4. East Rock, New Haven, photographs, 1889
 - Folder 5. Correspondence, 1895, 1961; League of American Wheelmen membership materials, 1899; gun license, 1907; portrait photographs, ca. 1890, 1916
 - Folder 6. Clippings and programs concerning Faith Congregational Chapel, 1894-1927
- Series E. Anna Marie Stegeman Papers, 1882-1892
- Folder 1. Photographs, 1882-1892; son Charles Mills, 1892

STEGEMAN FAMILY
Papers, 1850-1961Box 1 (cont.)

Series F. Bertha Stegeman Papers, 1873
Folder 1. Birth certificate, 1873

Series G. Henry J. Stegeman Jr. Papers, 1880-1957
Folder 1. Photographs, 1880-1938
Folder 2. Photographs, 1922, 1941; letter, ca. 1917; clipping, 1957
Folder 3. Mrs. Henry Stegeman replevin papers, 1905

Box 2

Series H. Dora Martha Stegeman Higley Papers, 1880-1907
Folder 1. Photographs, 1881, 1892-1904
Folder 2. Birth certificate, 1880; memorial card, 1907

Series I. Gennevia Higley Schmidheini Papers, 1903-1917, 1927
Folder 1. Photographs, 1903-1911
Folder 2. Wedding memorabilia, 1917; photograph, n.d.; clipping, [1927]
Folder 3. Congratulations cards, 1922 (birth of Edwin)

Series J. Frederick Schmidheini Papers, 1916-1924
Folder 1. Photographs, 1916; includes image of father Paul
Folder 2. Letters, 1917, 1922; stock certificate, 1924; clippings concerning cousin J. S. Buechler, ca. 1917
Folder 3. Military regalia and calling cards, n.d.

Series K. Laurence Schmidheini Papers, 1920-1941
Folder 1. Photographs, ca. 1920, 1940, 1941
Folder 2. Boy Scout cards, 1937, 1938

Series L. Edwin C. Schmidheini papers, 1936-1939
Folder 1. Fairfield High School pin, 1936; school newspapers, 1938-1939

Series M. Related Stegeman Families Papers, ca. 1865-1916
Volume 1. Family photograph album, n.d.

STEGEMAN FAMILY
Papers, 1850-1961

Box 2 (cont.)

- Folder 1. Stegeman family genealogical notes, n.d.
- Folder 2. Eva Stegeman photograph, ca. 1865
- Folder 3. Uncle Robert Langer photograph, n.d.
- Folder 4. Cousin Martha Langer Moore photographs, 1890, n.d.
- Folder 5-6. Cousin Anna Langer Bell photographs, ca. 1870-1890
- Folder 7. Stegeman homestead, Jennings Road, 1913
- Folder 8. Memoranda and lists, 1897-1916

Box 3

- Folder 9. Family photographs from Germany, ca. 1890-1916
- Folder 10-12. Identified photographs of family and friends, ca. 1850-1890
- Folder 13. Alex Bentley photograph, newspaper article, 1889, 1892
- Folder 14. Lillie Ross, signed napkin, 1899
- Folder 15. Donaldson family photographs, 1924-1929
- Folder 16. Unidentified tintypes
- Folder 17-19. Unidentified photographs
- Folder 20. Unidentified cards
- Folder 21. Printed material, 1900-1930

STEGEMAN FAMILY
Papers, 1850-1961

Subject headings

Chinese-Japanese War, 1894-1895

Emigration and immigration

Family--Conn.--Fairfield

Family--Germany

Farms--Conn.--Fairfield

German Americans--Conn.--Fairfield

Higley family

Missionaries--China--Tientsin

Photographs

Schmidheini family

Schmidt family

Women--Conn.--Fairfield

Fairfield County Farm Bureau (Norwalk, Conn.)

Faith Chapel (Fairfield, Conn.)

League of American Wheelmen

Wynona Cycle Club (Bridgeport, Conn.)

STEGEMAN FAMILY
Papers, 1850-1961

Partial translation of German documents:

Passport for Elias Schmidt

Born Moshe

Resides Breslau

Size average

Hair brown

Eyebrows blond

Eyes green

Nose

Mouth

Beard brown

Features oval (?)

Stature average

Pass is effective for 5 years

Death certificate

Christiana Lindshugel wife of Elias Schmidt died 1856

Birth certificate for Dora Martha

Mr. Heinrich Stegeman

conceived by his wife Augusta nee Schmitt

25 October 1880 in Fairfield, Ct.

A daughter was born and received the holy baptism

in and the name Dora Martha October 9, 1881

Witnesses: Martha

Birth certificate for Eva

Mr Heinrich Stegeman from Fairfield County, born in Germany

and his wife Augusta nee Schmitt from Germany

conceived a daughter by the name of Eva Stegeman on the 14th May 1873