

Collection #
P 0910

**MARGUERITE HOLZBAUER STEIS
COLLECTION, 1890-1994**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** One half-sized box of photographs, three OVA photographs,
one PAB photo album, two printed items

**COLLECTION
DATES:** circa 1890-1994 (bulk: 1911-1923)

PROVENANCE: Christopher and Robin Steis, Falls Church, VA

RESTRICTIONS: None

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2025.0046

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Marguerite Holzbauer Steis was a dancer and physical education teacher who grew up in Plymouth, Marshall County, Indiana in the early 20th century. Over her long life she experienced many things and lived many places. When she died at the age of 108, the funeral home that handled her service was housed in the building that had been her childhood home in Plymouth.

Marguerite Holzbauer Steis was born Marguerite Rose Holzbauer on 20 September 1893, probably in Chicago. Her parents were Joseph A. Holzbauer, a travelling lumber salesman, and Emma K. [Scherer] Holzbauer. She had an older sister, Rose Marguerite, born 1892. In 1894 the family added another child, a son, Joseph Jr.

Around 1906 the family moved from Chicago to Plymouth, Indiana. It was the first of many relocations during Marguerite's life. But the family was prosperous and moved into what is now a historic landmark building at the corner of W. Madison and Walnut Streets in Plymouth known as the Simons House. On the property was also a large stable/carriage house with a distinctive tower, known as the Simons Carriage House (These were named after the buildings' first owner, M.W. Simons, who died in 1906).

Marguerite attended St. Michael's Academy and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1911. The quote assigned to her by yearbook staff that year was "I just can't make my eyes behave." After that, Marguerite spent time at Purdue in West Lafayette, Notre Dame in South Bend, and St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute Indiana. In 1915 she graduated from the Mary Wood Hinman School of Dance in Chicago.

After that, she attended the Normal College of the American Gymnastics Union in Indianapolis, earning a 2-year degree in gymnastics in 1919, and a 4-year Bachelor of Physical Education in 1925. Throughout the 1920s she was also performing and teaching dance with her partner Charlotte Galpin. Marguerite is listed twice in the 1920 census, once at her home in Plymouth with her family (enumerated in January), and again as a roomer in Hempstead, New York with Charlotte (enumerated in February).

Marguerite then taught physical education at various high schools in Washington, DC, which included anything from basketball to fencing, horseback riding to dance.

In October 1927, at the age of 34, Marguerite married Edmund G. Steis, a Notre Dame alumnus and veteran of a chemical warfare company in World War I. The marriage only lasted until about 1931, but Marguerite retained her married name for the rest of her life. The couple also had a son, Jean Richard Steis, born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1930.

After her divorce, Marguerite continued to teach physical education in Washington, DC for many years. She died in a nursing home in Maryland in 2002 and is buried in the Holzbauer plot in Plymouth. The Van Gilder Funeral Home that handled her service was then and still is quartered in the Simons House.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

“Simons House” and “Simons Carriage House”, IHSSI County Survey, *Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archeological Research Database (SHAARD)*, (<http://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/shaard/welcome.html>)

United States Federal Census, 1900; 1920; 1940; 1950, *Ancestry Library Edition* (<http://ancestrylibrary.com>)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of mostly photographic materials from the life of Marguerite Holzbauer prior to her marriage. A couple of small manuscript items have been stored in folders within the photographs box.

The photograph album, which Marguerite kept mostly during her early years after high school graduation, contains her personal photographs with her written descriptions and identifications. On the inside covers she has pasted tiny cutouts from letterheads and other sources. However, the album is incomplete as many photographs were crudely removed prior to its donation. The album was also disbound by the conservator due to its metal staple binding.

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Simons House, Plymouth, circa 1890-1920

Simons Carriage House, Plymouth, circa 1890

Marguerite Holzbauer, circa 1900-1921

Tomlins School of Music, Chicago, application (blank) and certificate, 1904-1905

Marguerite Holzbauer photo album, 1906-1913

Plymouth, Indiana stationery set, circa 1906

Programs, Plymouth High School commencement, 1911

Joe Holzbauer, Jr., circa 1912

Knute Rockne with chemistry class, circa 1914

Marguerite Holzbauer promotional dance photos, circa 1915-1925

Hinman School of Dancing, Chicago, graduates, 1915

Commencement ball, Culver Military Academy, 1915

Aviator Art Smith, circa 1915

North American Gymnastics Union (NAGU) parties, 1917-1919

Plymouth Indiana May Festival, 1917

CONTAINER

Photographs,
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Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs,
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Photographs,
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Photographs,
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Box 1, Folder 7

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OVA Photographs,
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Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 11

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 12

Bulletin, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, July 1920

Marguerite Holzbauer and Charlotte Galpin
promotional dance photos, 1923

Home Lumber Co., circa 1928

*St. Michael's School Dedication Book and History of
the Parish*, Plymouth Indiana, September 1954

*Historical Highlights of St. Michael's Catholic
Church*, Plymouth, April 1985

Simons Carriage House, Plymouth, 1994

General Collection:

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 13

OVA Photographs,
Folder 3 of 3

General Collection:

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 14

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 15