

Helen Seibert Thomes Scrapbooks

Helen Seibert Thomes was a local dance instructor for many years during the early to mid 20th century. Her life as well as photographs of her students is represented in this collection.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Helen Seibert Thomes
Title: Helen Seibert Thomes scrapbooks
Dates: circa 1910-1946
Size: 1 box, 22 folders
Location: SC65

Administrative Information

Restriction on access: Unrestricted access.

Additional physical form available: Photographs have been digitized.

Acquisition information: Gift, 1964, given by sister, Mrs. Alexander R. Cochran.

Citation note: Helen Seibert Thomes scrapbooks (SC65), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Pubic Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Helen Siebert Thomes was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1884, the daughter of John Edward Thomes and Fannie Seibert. Her father was a civil engineer and worked for railroads including the Santa Fe Railroad. Miss Thomes conducted a dancing school in Kansas City called the Helen Thomes School of Dancing from circa 1916 to 1942 when she retired.

According to her obituary in the *Kansas City Star*, June 23, 1958, her studio was first in Morton's Hall at Westport and Main. Later she moved to Drexel Hall at Linwood and Main and still later she built a building for it at 40th and Baltimore. Her dance recitals were held at the Ivanhoe Temple, Resident Theatre, YMHA Auditorium, Grand Theatre, etc. She was a member of the auxiliary of Saint Luke's Hospital, a member of the Woman's City Club and active at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. She died in June of 1958.

Scope and content note

Scrapbook #1 contains 79 photographs with two in color and the rest in black and white. Most of the images are of Miss Thomes' students, circa 1915-1940, and are autographed and contain personal messages to her. There are also photographs of noted dancers of the time including Andreas Pavley and Anna Ludmila. Most of the poses were taken in local photograph studios with the majority from the Hixson and Hixson-Connelly Studio. All of these photographs have been photocopied as well as scanned.

Scrapbook #2 contains 10 photographs including snapshots with Miss Thomes and two other women taken at Lake Michigan during a dance school, plus newspaper clippings, correspondence, dance recital programs, ephemera from a trip to Paris in 1914, dancing schedules and announcements, membership certificates and awards from the American Red Cross for her volunteer work, etc. All the contents have been photocopied.

Collection Inventory

- Front folder - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album - Photocopies of photographs
- Folder 1 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #1 - 7
- Folder 2 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #8 - 14
- Folder 3 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #15 - 21
- Folder 4 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #22 - 28
- Folder 5 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #29 - 35
- Folder 6 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #36 - 42
- Folder 7 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #43 - 50
- Folder 8 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #51 - 57
- Folder 9 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #58 - 64
- Folder 10 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #65 - 71
- Folder 11 - Scrapbook #1, Photograph Album, Photos #72 - 79
- Folder 12 - Scrapbook #2 - Pages 1 - 10 - Photographs, program, newspaper clipping, Paris, France memorabilia
- Folder 13 - Scrapbook #2 - Pages 11 - 27 - Newspaper clippings (photocopied)
- Folder 14 - Scrapbook #2 - Pages 28 - 35 - Newspaper clippings (photocopied)
- Folder 15 - Scrapbook #2 - Pages 36 - 39 - Letters of appreciation, 1916-44, photographs, miscellaneous
- Folder 16 - Scrapbook #2 - Pages 40 - 43 - Dance programs, 1915 - 1939 and undated
- Folder 17 - Scrapbook #2 - Pages 44 - 49 - Dance program, correspondence, certificates, patch, Red Cross membership cards
- Folder 18 - Scrapbook #2 - Pages 50 - 53 - Correspondence, certificates, miscellaneous
- Folder 19 - Scrapbook #2 - Envelope #1 - Programs, miscellaneous
- Folder 20 - Scrapbook #2 - Envelope #2 - Dance recital programs, 1915 - undated
- Folder 21 - Scrapbook #2 - Envelope #2 - Dance recital programs, mostly undated, articles (photocopied)

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sandra Gates, July 1997.