

Minnesota State University, Mankato,
Memorial Library, Southern Minnesota Historical Center.

William J. Nigg, 1908-1983. Collection, 1930-1939.

SMHC Collection 0289

William J. Nigg, 1908-1983. Collection, 1930-1939. SMHC Collection 0289. 1 Textile Box, 2 cubic feet.

ABSTRACT:

The William Nigg collection consists of an athletic sweater and a photograph of Mankato State Teachers College students and staff in September 1930.

HISTORICAL OR BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

William Joseph "Bill" Nigg was born on September 28, 1908, to George and Anna Nigg in Lamberton, Minnesota. He would graduate from Lamberton High School and attend Lamberton Teacher Training School before going to Mankato State Teachers College in 1930.¹ On June 4, 1931, Nigg graduated with a two-year degree with honors.² William returned to college and received his Bachelor of Education degree in history in 1939.³ During both his periods of education at Mankato State Teachers College Nigg was very active in extracurricular activities. While earning his two-year degree Nigg was a part of the Katonian staff, the M Club, A.I.A.G., and the Growler Club. While working on his Bachelors degree, he joined the football team where he played guard.⁴ He was inducted into the Minnesota State University, Mankato Athletics Hall of Fame in 1965.⁵ He would conclude his education by getting a master's degree at the University of Minnesota.⁶ In 1962 Nigg became the superintendent of Mankato schools, a position he would hold until his eventual retirement in 1974.⁷

A unique feature about Nigg's sweater is the color scheme. The navy-blue color and orange stripping on the sleeves are not the normal school colors (purple and gold since 1892).⁸ However, despite the apparently declared purple and gold moniker, the *School Spirit* on October 11, 1934 referenced the team as the "Orange and Blue" and "Burnt Orange", suggesting this sweater is indicative of the official team colors from this time.⁹ It's not conclusive how long athletic teams wore orange and blue.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The William J. Nigg collection consists of an athletics sweater and a photograph of Mankato State Teachers College students and staff in September 1930.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121096770/william-joseph-nigg>

² June 1931 commencement

³ 1939 Katonian

⁴ 1931 and 1939 Katonians

⁵ <https://msumavericks.com/honors/hall-of-fame/william-nigg/179>

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121096770/william-joseph-nigg>

⁷ The Alumni Reporter, Volume 5, Issue 2, Winter 1962 and Mankato State Daily Reporter, Wednesday, April 17, 1974

⁸ *Mankatonian*, Volume 2, No.3, pg.16.

⁹ *College Spirit*, October 11, 1934, Volume 7, Issue 3, pg. 5.

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.

COLLECTION CITATION: (Required)

This collection should be cited as:

William J. Nigg, 1908-1983. Collection, 1930-1939. SMHC Collection 0289, Southern Minnesota Historical Center, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

ACQUISITION:

Nancy Nigg Delcomyn donated this collection in October 2022.

PROCESSED BY:

Carter Logan and Adam Smith processed this collection in January 2024.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

It has been determined that there are materials related to William Nigg at the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

RELATED COLLECTIONS AT MSU:**LCSH SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

SMHC Collection 0289	Box	Folder
Athletic Sweater	1	
Class Photograph, 1930		