

# **Finding Aid for the Stegmier family photos and biographical sources Collection 155**

**Finding aid prepared by Aron B. Shroll**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department  
November 1992  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator - Donor</b>	Stegmier, Jack
<b>Title</b>	Stegmier family photos and biographical sources
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1891-1981
<b>Extent</b>	0.21 Linear feet One box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Stegmier (also spelled Stegmeier) family emigrated from Germany to Grand Rapids, Michigan in the 1890s. The collection contains a family history by Jack Stegmier, news clippings regarding Irwin Stegmier and photographs dating circa 1890 to 1910, plus 1980 images of Jack Stegmier. The material provides information on the Stegmier relatives and their lives in America. Photographs include interiors of a tailor shop and saloon during the first two decades of the twentieth century.</p>

## Irwin Stegmier

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Irwin Stegmier was born on April 28, 1901 and earned two bachelor's degrees in Aerodynamic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Irwin married Elsa Geisendorf in 1925 and they had five children. On May 25, 1925, he was employed as a Mechanical Engineer by the Keeler Brass Company until he retired on June 1, 1967. Irwin Stegmier died on August 14, 1981.

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## Vincent Joseph Stegmier

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Vincent Joseph Stegmier (usually called Joe) arrived in the United States in August 1891 on the steamship Oldenburg out of Bremerhaven, Germany. Joe's father, whose name is not given, had been killed in a barrel factory in Germany. Joe immigrated at the age of 16 with his grandfather, Johann Kruger. Both were from Wurtenburg, Germany and settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Joe's first job in America was at Vidro's tailor shop on Canal Street (now Monroe Avenue, north of Pearl Street). The shop suffered greatly during the Panic of 1893 and the ensuing national economic depression. Next, Joe worked in Paul Grubinger's saloon at 37 Bridge Street, NW. In 1917 Joe bought his own saloon at 300 Bridge Street NW and called it "The Bavarian." During Prohibition and the Great Depression, the saloon was a lunch stand.

In 1900 Joe was married to Carolina Broserdorf (daughter of Johann Broserdorf from Prussia, who arrived in Grand Rapids in 1875). They had one son, Irwin.

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection provides a detailed look at Irwin Stegmier's family. The photographs provide information about the activities of Joe Stegmier and his family. The hand-written family history tells about the relatives and their lives in America. The news clippings provide data on Irwin's achievements along with his obituary and an award he received, the Outstanding Achievement award from the Izaak Walton League.

The photographs detail Joe Stegmier's activities and jobs. A few of the photos are: four men identified as Grandpa Broserdorf, Mr. Broun, Fritz, and Chris Mohrhardt; an unidentified man with a stein, dated

7-7-1919; a group of people and tents, identified as Stegmier at Reeds Lake; a picture of a bar interior with the names Terry Cousnor, Grandpa Joe Stegmier, Grandma Stegmier, and Minnie the cook.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department November 1992

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Jack Stegmier, accession number 1992.020

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Family Name(s)

- Stegmier

### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### Personal Name(s)

- Stegmier, Irwin, 1901-1981

### Subject(s)

- German Americans -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

- **Immigrants -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History**

## Series I. Photographs

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I. Photographs</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Bar. Interior, ca. 1900 (1)	1	1
Grand Rapids Brewery, ca.1910 (3)	1	2
Grubinger's Tobacco Shop, ca.1890 (1)	1	3
People. Irwin Stegmier, seated in a living room type setting. Dec. 18, 1980 GR Press Photos (2 8/9/2005)	1	4
People. Groups, ca. 1890 (6)	1	5
Tenting, ca. 1910 (1)	1	6
Turnveriens, ca. 1900 (2)	1	7
Vidrols Tailor Shop, ca. 1890 (1)	1	8
<b>Series II. Manuscripts</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>

**Series II. Manuscripts**

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Irwin Stegmier news clippings, 1980

1

9

Family history by Jack Stegmier, 1992

1

10