

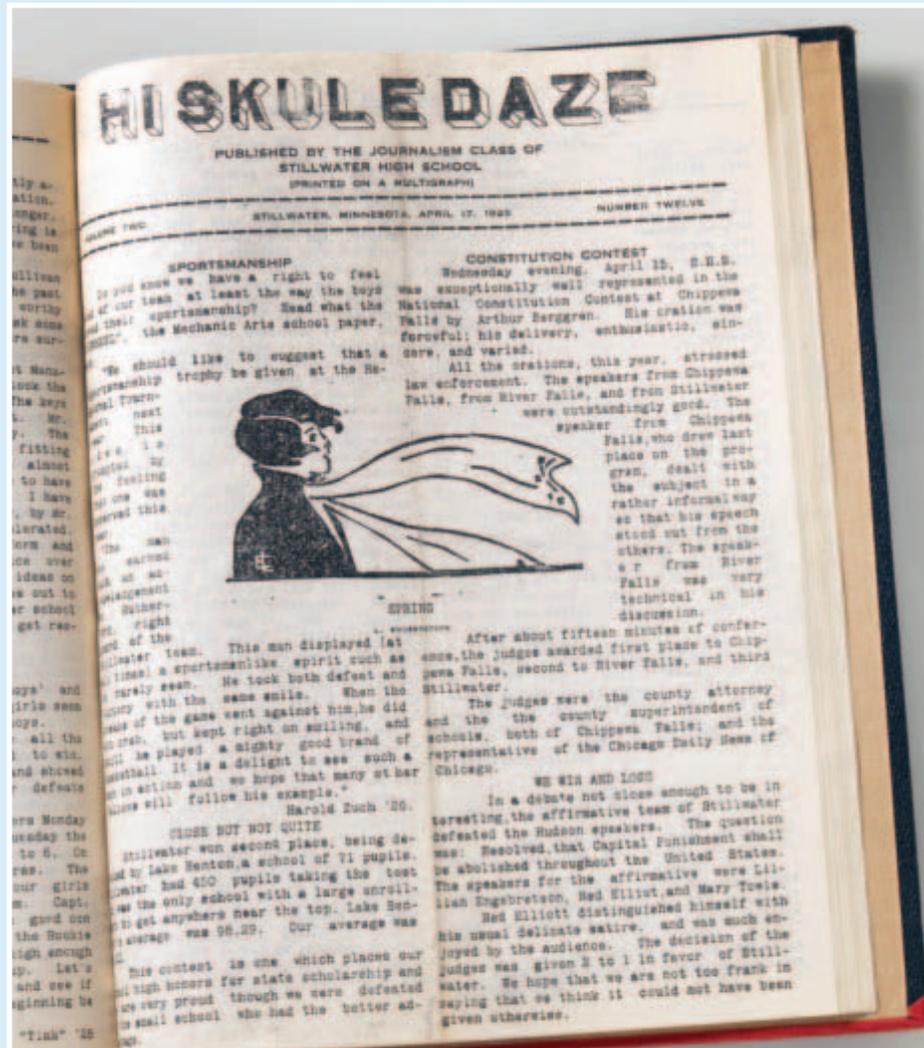
*Cheer, cheer for Stillwater High
Back the team; they'll never say die.
Fight! Fight! Fight! With all your might,
Onward to victory. Rah! Rah! Rah!*

THIS EXCERPT from a Stillwater High School song, printed in a football-game program (circa 1920), illustrates the variety of information found in public school records. Recently, the Stillwater Public Schools transferred to the State Archives of the Minnesota Historical Society valuable documents and photographs that help preserve the history of its schools. Established in 1850, the Stillwater school district was one of the first in the state, so its history is long and significant. The transferred records date from 1858 to 1992 and, with some exceptions, are open for use.

School life is richly illustrated in photographs—from about 1880 to 1963—of classes, student activities (such as band, athletics, school plays), and buildings, past and present. There is even a 1900–07 record book of the high-school athletic association with the constitution, membership list, and meeting minutes. Of course, school grades and attendance are important.



Cheerleaders, Stillwater High School



ERIC MORTENSON/MHS

Selected student records (1872–1928) are available, though access may be restricted.

And don't forget the teachers! Stillwater's are documented in summary records (1924–49) that include the teacher's name, name of school, and subjects taught. The district's governance, finances, and operations are recorded in the Board of Education meeting minutes (1858–1987), with many of the early minutes written by hand. Summary financial information is important, and receipt and disbursement registers (1859–1927) are among the collection.

The Stillwater public school records are valuable for family and local history and are useful for studying the growth and development of both the school district and the City of Stillwater over a long period of time. Along with these, the State Archives also preserves selected records for other school districts, many of which no longer exist and are only a memory.

*Onward to victory. Rah! Rah! Rah!
Stillwater ! ! ! !*

—Charles Rodgers,
government records specialist

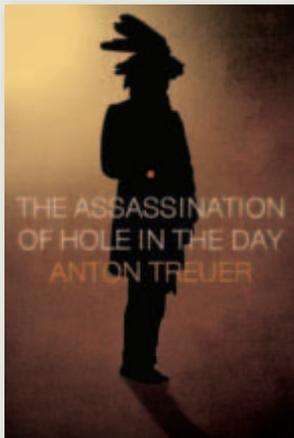


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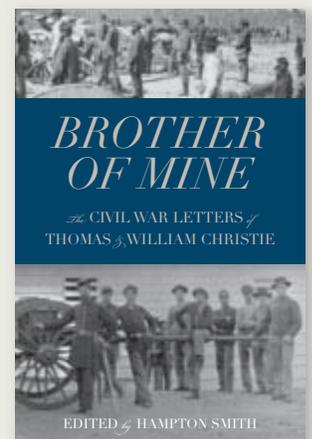
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Edited by Hampton Smith

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