

**Collection Name:**

Nils Flaten family letters and photographs, 1888-1956

**Collection Number:**

P1712

**Extent:**

2.8 cubic feet (7 archives boxes)

**Abstract:**

Nils Flaten (1867-1947) taught Romance Languages at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, 1900-1946. Born in Valdres, Norway, son of Ole and Moren (Wagensten) Flaten. Emigrated in 1868 and settled in Dennison, Goodhue County, Minn. Married Inez Ruth Olson of Arkdale, Wisconsin, September 1, 1896. Thirty-seven different correspondents.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1-2		Correspondence, 1888-1955 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arthur E. Olson, Portland, N.D., brother of Inez Flaten, 1897-1898,</li><li>• Almira Bermer, friend of Inez Flaten, London, England, 1 letter/1922</li><li>• Arnold Flaten, son of Nils Flaten, Duluth, Minn., Northfield, Minn., St. Paul, Minn., 1923-1924</li><li>• Rev. G.H. Bakken, family friend, St. Paul, Minn., 1921</li><li>• Mrs. R.D. Berry, family friend, photographs: car and home, circa 1920</li><li>• Miss Mae Bjorneby, family friend, Kalispell, Montana, 1921</li><li>• Mrs. Heite, family friend, Los Angeles, California, 1921</li><li>• Erich Boe, uncle of Nils Flaten, Hamar, Norway, in Norwegian, 1903</li><li>• Frida Boe, family friend, Ostrander, Minnesota, 1903</li><li>• Ivar Boe, son of Aunt Ingelev, St. Elmo, Georgia, 1920-1925</li><li>• Celia, sister to Inez Flaten? Arkdale, Wisc. and San Francisco, California, 1897-1924</li><li>• Dorothea, sister, Dennison, Minnesota, 1898</li><li>• Emil, brother, Lake City, Minnesota, 1920</li><li>• Mrs. H., family friend, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1900-1902</li><li>• Hospitals letters, Nurses, St. Paul, and Faribault, Minnesota, 1923-1924</li></ul>

- Adah Holen, cousin, Friendship, Wisconsin, 1896
- Inez Olsen, niece of Inez Flaten, Vaxtaire, North Dakota, 1919
- Inger Aanes, niece of Inez Flaten, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Deer Lodge, Montana, 1901-1905
- Ingelev Boe? aunt of Nils Flaten, Northfield, Minnesota, Grand Bay and St. Elmo, Alabama, 1897-1923
- Ingvald, uncle to Nils Flaten, Bruno, Minnesota, 1920-1923
- Isabell Isaacs, cousin, Hazel Run, Minnesota, 1897
- Inez Flaten, wife of Nils Flaten, Minneapolis and Northfield, Minnesota, 1920-1955
- Julia Post, former St. Olaf College faculty (Women's PE), Madison, Wisconsin, 1923-1924
- Louise Aanes Nelson, sister of Inez, Nils Flaten's wife, Clarkfield, Minnesota, 1897-1925
- Marie, sister, Mora, Minnesota, 1907-192
- Nils Flaten to Inez Flaten, Minneapolis and Northfield, Minnesota, 1898-1921
- Olav Flaten and Marie, Northfield, Minnesota, and Torrington, Lingley and Yoder, Wyoming, 1906-1926
- Ole Flaten, brother of Nils Flaten, Judith Gap and Roundup, Montana, 1918-1922
- Olena (Ollie) Flaten, wife of Ole Flaten, Arsdale, Wisconsin, Judith Gap, Montana, Enterprise, Oregon, Baldwin, Nielsville, and Spring Valley, Wisconsin, 1897-1925
- Ole and Inger Olsen, parents of Inez Flaten, Arsdale, Wisconsin, 1888-1908
- Olava Aanes, niece of Inez Flaten, Clarkfield, Minnesota, 1906
- Randi, sister of Nils Flaten, Dennison and Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1898-1924
- Samuel and Mildred Olson, brother of Inez Flaten, Montevideo and Ada, Minnesota, Portland and Voltaire, North Dakota, Elm Creek, Manitoba, 1898-1905
- Sigrid, sister of Nils Flaten, Northfield and Lake City, Minnesota, and Waukesha, Wisconsin, 1898-1922
- Susana Nyhus Hagen, sister of Inez Flaten, Portland and Rugby, North Dakota, Arsdale, Necedah, Strongs Prairie, and Friendship, Wisconsin, Mora, Pine Creek, and Fergus Falls, Minnesota, Braekkesto, Norway, 1897-1925

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- Thea Pearson, sister of Nils Flaten, Lake City, Minnesota, Minot, North Dakota, Oregon City and Hood River, Oregon, 1901-1924
- Emil O. Ellingson, family friend/St. Olaf Faculty, Northfield, Minnesota, 1921
- Mrs. O.E. Brandt, family friend, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1921
- Mrs. Eikeland, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1902
- Carl Gronland, Portland, North Dakota, 1897
- Bertha Hirli, Necedah, Wisconsin, 1897
- G.N. Steile Hilland, South Dakota, 1921
- Constance Helling; L.L. Enger, International Land Locating Co.
- Ruth Rorvik, St. Olaf College student, Alpha Delta Sorority, Northfield, Minnesota, 1921
- Mathilde Rasmussen, family friend, Rushford, Minnesota, 1921

3-4, 6

Photographs, 1913-1944

Subjects include: St. Olaf College campus & athletic events, family, residence & peony garden, vacations/tours, and post-World War I Italy (1919). All images have been scanned.

Box 6 contains glass plate negatives.

5 1

Fourteen postcards sent to Nils and Inez Flaten, 1907-1956

Correspondents include John N. Kildahl (1907, 1909); Nora Johnson (1966); Ellen Christenson (1953); Nora Schmidt (n.d.); Mrs. P.O. Holland (1930); Grace Carlson (1951); Grandma Flaten to Sigurd Flaten (1925). Postcard depictions: General View, Ashland, Oregon (1909); Vang Valdres med Grindafjell (1949); York Minister, West Front (1956); Little Sister and Big Sister Bay, Sister Bay, Wisconsin (1953); Mt. Wapta (undated); St. Olaf Choir (1920); Tivoli Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi (1930); St. Olaf College Old Main (1909); M/S Oslofjord (1951); Interior of Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. (1925); and Public Schools, Spring Valley, Wisconsin (1908).

5 2

42 page typescript journal/memoir kept by Nils Flaten from 1938 March 18- 1945 May 31

Flaten addressed his student days, and subsequent years as a teacher. Reminiscences include childhood Christmas practices and customs (meals, brewing beer, animal tending, singing, presents, church service, visiting neighbors, games, and julebukking). In addition, transcripts of his radio address "Norskdømm I Amerika" (for the Norwegian Government Broadcasting) and a eulogy for former Dennison, Minnesota, resident Sever J. Svein, are included.

5	3	42 handwritten letters to Nils Flaten from spouse, Inez Olson Flaten, Northfield, Minnesota, 1909-1910
5	4	40+ handwritten letters to Nils Flaten from father, Ole I. Flaten, 1894-1900
5	5	30+ handwritten letters to Nils Flaten from relatives in Norway, 1940-1946 The majority of letters are in regards to an inheritance.
Folio		Confirmation certificate issued by Rev. Iver G. Aschim to Inez Ruth Olson, Arcdale, Adams County, Wisconsin, 1889 May 24

**Photographs available online [here](#). Description of the photographs below.**

1913_001	Father shortly before Christmas
1913_002	Sigurd and Dr. Melby's house
1913_003	Fall; Inez with children, Sigurd and Arnold
1913_004	Europe
1913_005	Fall; Olav
1913-1915	Sigurd, Inez, Arnold, Miss Elstad, and views from St. Olaf
1914_001	March 3; Family group picture
1915_001	Arnold and Sigurd
1915_002	July; Arnold and Sigurd in garden
1915_003	Individual family photos in the orchard of the house
1915_004	Summer; views taken on trip to west
1915_005	Inez and Class of 1914 at commencement
1916_001	Professor Flaten family and houses
1916_002	Fall
1916_003	Professor Flaten and houses
1917_001	Arnold, Sigurd, Nils, Inez, the Rolvaags, and new house
1917_002	March 17; St. Olaf avenue house and Sigurd
1917_003	Family pictures
1918_001	Misses Anderson, Rahn, Holstad and home guards uniform
1918_002	Boys

1918_003	Family pictures
1918_004	February; Miss Anderson, Inez, Arnold, Miss Thomson, boys in uniform
1918_005	Olav in uniform
1918_006	Inez and Sigurd
1919_001	February; Italy
1919_002	Pageant
1919_003	Winter
1919_004	Picnic at Vang's Church
1919_005	Italy
1919-1920_001	St. Olaf campus, Arnold, Olav, and Sigurd
1919-2020_002	St. Olaf football game and gymnasium
1920_001	Summer
1920_002	Summer; Inez
1920_003	Mary; Arnold, Inez, and Asda
1920_004	May: President Boe and President Holland
1920_005	Spring: St. Olaf football games, President Boe, Professor Holland, Rev. Kildahl, and Professor Ballenbache
1920_006	October: St. Olaf football game
1920_007	Peony garden on Manitou Street
1920_008	October: St. Olaf Carleton football game at Carleton
1920_009	View of St. Olaf from balcony on 315 Manitou Street
1920_010	Winter: View from Old Main
1921_001	Sigurd, Arnold on Manitou Street and house on Forest Avenue
1921_002	September: Family pictures
1921_003	Fall: Arnold
1921_004	Summer: European tour

1922_001	European tour
1922_002	Family pictures
1922_003	Spring
1923_001	European tours
1923_002	May: Miss Jepsen, Miss Post, Sigurd, Inez, and Gevendlyn
1923_003	Winter: Arnold, Sigurd, and Inez
1923-1924_001	Arnold and Sigurd
1924_001	Tour of 1923
1924_002	Family pictures
1924-1925_001	Winter: Ruins of Chapel and new Science Hall
1925_001	Spring: Mrs. Blesen Arnold
1925_002	April: Norswing and Flaten family pictures
1925_003	European tour
1926_001	Fall: Home on Forest Avenue
1926_002	Tour of 1926 "University Special"
1927_001	Admissions building
1927_002	Spring play
1927_003	Christmas: Family pictures
1927_004	Tour of 1927
1927_005	House on Forest Avenue
1928_001	Unlabelled
1929_001	Unlabelled
1929_002	Tour of 1929
1930_001	Tour of 1930
1930_002	September: Family pictures
1930_003	June: Inez Arnold

1931_001	Tour of 1931
1931_002	Spring: Family and house
1931_003	May and July: Olav and house, Inez and house, Sigurd and Olav
1932_001	Winter: Family pictures
1932_002	Spring: Family pictures
1932_003	Summer
1932_004	Summer: Sigurd, Inez, Evelyn, Arnold, Randi, and new St. Olaf art building
1932_005	October: Evelyn and baby Anne, Inez and new art barn
1933_001	Summer: Views of art studio and yard
1934_001	Spring: Sigurd and Anne
1934_002	September: Inez, Evelyn, and Anne
1935_001	April: Evelyn with children, and Anne with Robert
1936_001	Summer: Inez, Nils, Sigurd, and Anne with Robert
1936_002	1401 Forest Avenue North
1940_001	French club on 1401 Forest Avenue
1940_002	June 11: Inez, Arnold, and Olav's families at Minnehaha Park
1940_003	May: Spanish club on 1401 Forest Avenue
1940_004	Houses on 1401 Forest Avenue
1941_001	September 1: Robert and Anne
1941_002	May: Pictures taken by Elaine Kirland
1941_003	June 19: Flatten family reunion at Granite Falls
1941_004	New Library building
1941_005	August: West Indies cruise on SS Kungsholm
1941-1942_006	Winter: Sigurd, Inez, Nils, and view of hospital taken on January 27. The day of groundbreaking for the new library
1942_001	May 10: Family pictures of Inez, Mary, Robert, Anne, Arnold, and Nils in

	the yard
1942_002	Summer: Family pictures of Mary, Robert, Inez, Nils, and Arnold
1943_001	Summer: Arnold, Anne, Robert, Mary, and Inez
1944_001	Unlabelled