

A Guide to the Home Interest Club Records, 1903-2013

Home Interest Club Records 1903-2013
1903-2013

A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library M 077, VC 0050, ART 0004
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History

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A Guide to the Home Interest Club Records, 1903-2013

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Author: Elizabeth E. Preston

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

M 077, VC 0050, ART 0004

Language

English

Abstract

This collection is made up of the administrative papers of the Home Interest Club. Records include correspondence, financial records, meeting agendas and minutes, as well as some of the notes for presentations made by members at the monthly meetings. Presentations made by Rachel Hoge Branch (1875-1944), one of the founding members, have been photocopied and collected in a bound volume by her son. The volume, included here, is titled *Papers from Overlea*. There are handwritten recipes contributed by the membership, some of them dating to the founding of the club. The recipes have been arranged thematically in preparation for the production of a cookbook in 2003, a copy of which is also included in the collection. Also of note in the collection are yearbooks, which contain the names of the officers for the year, a list of meetings, and brief descriptions of the meeting presentations. It was common for the yearbooks to be bound in scraps of wallpaper. The collection includes a small set of photographs, and a walnut button box that was used in the election of new members to the club.

Creator

Home Interest Club, Purcellville, VA.

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

Acquisition Information

Home Interest Club, Purcellville, VA.

Processing Information

Elizabeth E. Preston, 9 November 2012

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Preferred Citation

Home Interest Club Records, 1903-2013 (M 077), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2001.0007

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Cosmelia Janney Hughes Sketchbook, 1945 (BV 007). Jane Hirst Bogle Photograph Collection (VC 0005). Leesburg Garden Club Collection, 1920- (M 044). Purcellville Woman's Club, 1922-1960 (M 046). *A Taste of Loudoun County: Our Favorite Recipes, 1903-1951*, compiled by George A. Hrunenei, 2003 (V REF 641.5975 HOM).

Bibliography

Ancestry Library Edition, United States Census, United States Census and Voter Lists, <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com> (Accessed 7 November 2012).

Loudoun Times-Mirror

Home Interest Club Records, 1903-2013 (M 077). Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Loudoun Cemetery Database, <http://www.leesburgva.gov/index.aspx?page=940> accessed, 7 November

2012.

Loudoun County Newspaper Index, <http://www.leesburgva.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5574> accessed, 8 November 2012.

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

The Home Interest Club was founded in the fall of 1903 by a group of women near Lincoln, VA and operated until March 2013. Most of the founding women were members of the Society of Friends, though involvement with the Friends was not a prerequisite for membership in the club. The constitution and bylaws of the club state that it is to "Benefit the home by making housekeeping easier in the exchanging of recipes and the discussion of all topics tending to elevate and improve the home." One of the original requirements of membership was that every woman share a proven recipe at each meeting. Some of the recipes were eventually published in a cookbook written to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the founding of the club, a copy of which is included in the club's records.

Some of the early members of the club included:

- Rachel Hoge Branch (1875-1944)
- Elizabeth Brown (1822-1904)
- Lydia Brown (1845-1926)
- Rebecca Brown (1858-1938)
- Mary Gregg (1853-1923)
- Virginia Hirst (1857-1936)
- Clara Hoge (1865-1947)
- Julia B. Hoge (1880-1929)
- Laura Hoge (1867-1942)
- Cosmelia Janney Hughes (1872-1962)
- Cosmelia Janney (1858-1940)
- Caroline Pancoast (1873-1950)

The club held monthly meetings that throughout its history consisted of a roll call, discussion of club business, a program, and refreshments. The program usually consisted of one or more presentations by members. Presentations often included readings from published material or original writings, but were usually informational in nature. Topics included temperance, suffrage for women, civil rights for African Americans, foreign affairs, local history, and current events. During World War II there was a program on using sugar substitutes and members were asked to contribute sugar-shortage recipes. The membership also shared ideas about education, child rearing, and household maintenance.

Initially, membership was capped at twenty, though the club eventually expanded its membership to twenty-five. When a membership became available in the club, an active member nominated a woman in the community. Her name was brought before the club at a meeting, and each member voted to approve or deny the nominated woman. Balloting was done originally using a button box and white and black buttons. A white button placed in the box was a vote to approve the nomination, while a black button denied membership. The club's constitution stipulated that approval be unanimous. The button box was eventually retired in favor of a secret ballot, and, later, a vocal vote. New officers were elected each fall and took their posts in January..

The club worked with other organizations in the community to raise money for and awareness of issues affecting women and children. It collaborated with the Paxton Home for Children, Hamilton Book Club, Purcellville Woman's Club, and Leesburg Garden Club on various projects in the community. The Home Interest Club disbanded on 16 March 2013 as a result of low membership.

Scope and Content

This collection is made up of the administrative papers of the Home Interest Club. Records include correspondence, financial records, meeting agendas and minutes, as well as some of the notes for presentations made by members at the monthly meetings. Presentations made by Rachel Hoge Branch

(1875-1944), one of the founding members, have been photocopied and collected in a bound volume by her son. The volume, included here, is titled Papers from Overlea. There are handwritten recipes contributed by the membership, some of them dating to the founding of the club. The recipes have been arranged thematically in preparation for the production of a cookbook in 2003, a copy of which is also included in the collection. Also of note in the collection are yearbooks, which contain the names of the officers for the year, a list of meetings, and brief descriptions of the meeting presentations. It was common for the yearbooks to be bound in scraps of wallpaper. The collection includes a small set of photographs, mostly from three summer picnics, but also including one photograph from the final meeting of the club on 16 March 2013. In addition, there is a walnut button box that was used in the election of new members to the club. An explanation of the election procedure is located in Box 1.

Arrangement

Box: folder

Contents List

Container M 077

Box 1

Constitution, 1969, 2001

Cookbook, A Taste of Loudoun County: Our Favorite Recipes, 1903-1951. Centennial Edition, Compiled by George A. Hruneni, 2003

Cookbook Recipes:

Frozen Desserts, Breads

Cakes

Vegetables, Miscellaneous, Chicken

Soups, Salad Dressings, Cookies

Candies, Pudding, Pickles

Correspondence, n.d., 1904-1992

Election procedure, May 2003

Financial Records:

Account Books, 1905-1924; 1966-1969

Bank Statements, 1964-1969

Cancelled Checks, 1964-1969

Box 2

Financial Records:

Checkbooks (Purcellville National Bank and First National Bank of Purcellville), 1960s

Treasurer's Book, 1958-1963

Meeting Agendas, 1906-1953

Meeting Minutes, 1920-1960

Box 3

Meeting Minutes, 1961-2013

Meeting Presentations, n.d.; 1908; 1935; 1941

Membership and Officer Lists, 1933; 1952; 1981-2005

Newspaper Clippings, n.d.; 1912-2003

Box 4

Outside Organizations:

Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, n.d.; 1991-1992

Loudoun County Public Library Foundation, 1985

Purcellville Women's Club, 1908; 1913

"Papers from Overlea," by Rachel Hoge Branch (A bound collection of presentations delivered at the Home Interest Club meetings), 1977 and 1991

Photographs (Oversized), 1987

Yearbooks, 1962-2002

Container VC 0050

22 photographs of summer picnics, n.d., 1987-2013

Container ART 0004

1 walnut button box, c. 1903