

A Guide to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Collection, 1880-1965

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A Collection in Thomas Balch Library M 101

Thomas Balch Library

2014

History

Processed by: Ashley Swartwout

Title Statement

A Guide to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Collection, 1880-1965

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Author: Ashley Swartwout

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

M 101

Language

English

Abstract

The collection consists of minutes and treasurer's books from the Hamilton, Lincoln, and Purcellville WCTUs, as well as an assortment of documents from the state-wide Virginia WCTU and undated literature from the National WCTU Publishing House. Additionally, the Lincoln WCTU has bank records, processed checks, and used checkbooks

Creator

Loudoun County Historical Society, Leesburg, VA; Purcellville Preservation Association, Purcellville, VA.

Extent

.33 cubic feet.

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

Physical characteristics and conditions affect use of this material.

Processing Information

Processed by Ashley Swartwout, 1 July 2014

Preferred Citation

Woman's Christian Temperance Union Collection (M 101), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

Accruals

2004.0001, 2013.0160

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

History of The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Virginia and A Glimpse of Seventy-Five Years, 1883-1958.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union Collection (M 101), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Early History. www.wctu.org/earlyhistory.html (accessed 7 July 2014)

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was founded in November 1878 in Cleveland, Ohio. The organization encouraged abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and drugs as part of its mission of reform. Local chapters of the WCTU were called unions. While unions worked closely with the state and national organizations, they were largely autonomous and could choose to work for reforms that would be most beneficial in their local communities.

Loudoun County was home to several unions of WCTU. The Lincoln WCTU was founded in 1878 (the first local union in Virginia), the Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Hamilton in 1894, and the Purcellville WCTU in 1913. All the clubs worked to decrease alcoholism among the people of Loudoun County, and they all promoted the value of temperance to children. The Purcellville WCTU had a special emphasis on teaching children about the dangers of alcohol. The clubs taught children through school textbooks, speech contests, and Sunday school programs. The unions raised money through membership dues and by hosting bazaars and dinners. They used these funds, along with charitable donations, to purchase temperance literature from the National WCTU Publishing House in Evanston, Illinois, and to send members to the Virginia WCTU annual state convention. The unions also actively worked to promote the passage of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the production, transportation, and sale of alcohol. The amendment eventually passed and took effect in 1920, but the women of the WCTU continued their work of discouraging the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The Lincoln WCTU was the most active union in Loudoun County, and it remained active into the 1960s.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of minutes and treasurer's books from the Hamilton, Lincoln, and Purcellville WCTUs, as well as an assortment of documents from the state-wide Virginia WCTU and undated literature from the National WCTU Publishing House. Additionally, the Lincoln WCTU has bank records, processed checks, and used checkbooks.

Arrangement

Chronological

Contents List

M 101

Box 1

Lincoln WCTU Minutes book, 1906-1913

Lincoln WCTU Treasurer's book, 1910-1916

Lincoln WCTU Treasurer's book, 1910-1916

Lincoln WCTU Treasurer's book, 1922-1940

[Lincoln WCTU] Treasurer's book, 1939-1965

Lincoln WCTU Minutes book, 1880-1887

Purcellville WCTU Minutes book, 1915-1923

Purcellville WCTU Treasurer's book, 1914-1933

Hamilton WCTU Minutes book, 1894-1901

Box 2

Folder 1: Hamilton WCTU Minutes, 1901

Folder 2: Leesburg Hospital History, 1912

Folder 3: Lincoln WCTU Bank Statements, Checks, and Receipts, 1932-1938

Folder 5: Lincoln WCTU Checkbooks and Receipt Stubs from the Purcellville National Bank, 1938-1965

Folder 5: Lincoln WCTU Checks, 1930-1939

Folder 6: Lincoln WCTU Correspondence, 1913-1964

Folder 7: Lincoln WCTU Financial Papers and Money Receipts, 1936-1960

Folder 8: Lincoln WCTU Minutes, 1908-1911, 1954

Folder 9: National WCTU Publishing House Materials

Folder 10: Sunday School Temperance Program

Folder 11: Virginia WCTU, 1913-1965

Folder 12: WCTU Newspaper Clippings 1940-1953

Folder 13: WCTU Pledge Cards

Folder 14: WCTU Speech Contest Ballot Forms and Awards