

Papyrus Club (Haverhill, Mass.) Records, 1881-2013

Collection Summary

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| Reference Code: | MRQ, US. |
| Repository: | Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts. |
| Call Number: | MSS 62 |
| Creator: | Papyrus Club (Haverhill, Mass.) |
| Title: | Papyrus Club (Haverhill, Mass.) Records |
| Dates: | 1876-2013 |
| Size: | 3 linear feet (5 boxes, 1 volume) |
| Language(s): | Collection materials are in English. |
| Abstract: | The collection contains record books, calendars, letters, photographs, and other records from the Papyrus Club of Haverhill, Massachusetts, a women's club that held regularly scheduled meetings to discuss history, culture, and literature. |

Organizational History

In March 1876, there was a meeting of the North Church Industrial Society at the home of Mary Johnson on Main Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts. Helen W. How, Mary Johnson, and several other women discussed starting a club for the sharing of knowledge. Miss Goodrich invited these ladies to meet at her home on March 27th. At this meeting, a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws; elected a president, vice-president, a secretary/treasurer; and appointed a committee of three to decide upon topics for study. On Monday, 3 April 1876, the first regular meeting of the Papyrus Club was held at the home of Miss Annie Gilman, with all 14 members present. Its charter members listened to an anniversary ode and then drew up a constitution dedicating themselves (on a parchment scroll) to "mutual improvement." Meetings were held every Monday from April to October. After a member had read her paper, a discussion ensued. There were no refreshments served. The club flower was the pansy and the club color was lavender. The number of members was later increased to 16.

In the days when society held that formal education for women was not considered of great importance, the original members embarked upon a course of study of literature (beginning with Shakespeare), the history, culture, and economics of every major country of the time, the arts throughout the world and throughout history, as well as other topics. Each club year had its

main topic and each member had an assigned subject related to that topic. In 1900-1901, for example, the club studied Russia. Each year, they had at least one “outing,” a trip to some place of interest.

The club worked to help found several organizations still active in the city: The Boys’ Club; the Children’s Aid Society; and the Haverhill Historical Society. They initiated local interest in having a children’s librarian appointed to the public library staff.

By the 1950s, the Papyrus Club became more of a social club with monthly meetings and guest speakers or field trips. The membership grew to 19 and contributions were made to the Red Cross and the Community Chest. In 1971, they produced a cook book and gave all of the profits to the Haverhill Public Library. From a note in the records, the club dissolved in 2013.

Arrangement

Series 1. Administrative, 1881-2013, undated

Subseries 1.1. Secretary’s Records, 1881-2013

Subseries 1.2. Other Administrative, [1876], 1886, 1929-2000, undated

Series 2. Calendars, 1894-2005

Series 3. Member-related Material, 1880-2002, undated

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains record books, calendars, letters, and photographs from the Papyrus Club of Haverhill, Massachusetts, a women’s club that held regularly scheduled meetings to discuss history, culture, and literature. It has been arranged into three series. Series one contains records kept by the secretary of the club and other administrative records such as the club’s constitution and by-laws, lists of officers from the inception of the club, correspondence, and treasurer’s account books. Series two contains annual calendars for the club’s activities, including the topic for the season, a list of members, officers, hostesses, and sometimes references. Series three contains material created by club members including poetry, photographs, papers, news clippings, a scrapbook, the Cook Book they produced, and writings.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: [Item Identification], Papyrus Club (Haverhill, Mass.) Records, MSS 62, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Custodial History: Material was acquired from creator.

- Acquisition Information:** Cartes de visite of charter members were a gift of Mrs. Fannie Cutler J. Harvey. The constitution and bylaws were a gift of Mary W. Johnson and her sister, Fanny (Mrs. John L. Harvey) in November 1946 (HHS #9424).
- Processing Information:** Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021.
- Access Rights:** Collection is open for research.
- Phys. Access Restrictions:** None.
- Tech. Access Restrictions:** None.
- Copyright:** Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
- Related Collections:** None.
- Separated Material:** A copy of the cook book was separated from the collection and cataloged separately.
- Conservation Notes:** Photographs were sleeved to protect them. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper. Paperclips and staples were removed.
- Subjects:** Administrative records
Ames, Elizabeth C., 1853-1917
Attendance records
Black-and-white photographs
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Clubs
Color photographs
Drolet, Pam, 1959-
Haverhill (Mass.) – History
Johnson, Mary W., 1855-1940
Papyrus Club (Haverhill, Mass.)
Poetry
Programs
Scrapbooks
Wade, Margaret, 1885-1963
Women--Societies and clubs

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Administrative, 1881-2013, undated

This series consists of two subseries: 1.1, Secretary's Records; and 1.2, Other Administrative.

Subseries 1.1: Secretary's Records, 1881-2013

This subseries contains records kept by the secretary of the club, arranged chronologically.

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u>Container Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Secretary's record book, 1881-1890 | 1 | 1 |
| Secretary's record book, 1890-1897 | 1 | 2 |
| Secretary's record book, 1897-1904 | 1 | 3 |
| Secretary's record book, 1907-1912 | 1 | 4 |
| Secretary's record book, 1912-1914 | 1 | 5 |
| Secretary's record book, 1915-1926 | 1 | 6 |
| Meeting minutes, 1926-1936 | 1 | 7 |
| Meeting minutes, 1936-1946 | 2 | 1 |
| Meeting minutes, 1946-1956 | 2 | 2 |
| Meeting minutes, 1956-1960 | 2 | 3 |
| Secretary's notebook, 1959 | 2 | 4 |
| Secretary's reports, 1960-1969 | 2 | 5 |
| Secretary's annual reports, 1969-1980 (no reports for 1974-1975 or 1975-1976) | 2 | 6 |
| Secretary's annual reports, 1981-1989 | 2 | 7 |
| Secretary's reports, 1989-1999 | 2 | 8 |
| Secretary's reports, 1999-2013 | 2 | 9 |

Subseries 1.2: Other Administrative, [1876], 1886, 1929-2000, undated

This subseries contains the club's constitution and by-laws, lists of officers from the inception of the club, correspondence, treasurer's account books, and two envelopes of handwritten votes ("yes" or "no"), arranged chronologically.

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u>Container Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Constitution and by-laws on parchment scrolls [3 copies], undated [1876?]; stamp (inked block) of a pansy, undated | 5 | |

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u>Container Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Constitution and by-laws, 1886 (includes program for 1884-1885) | 2 | 10 |
| Lists of officers from the club's inception, 1929-1990 | 2 | 11 |
| Correspondence, 1931, 1972-1977, 1996-2000 | 2 | 12 |
| Treasurer's account books, 1945-1981, 1981-1996 | 2 | 13 |
| "Black balls" (anonymous votes in 2 envelopes), undated | 2 | 14 |

Series 2: Calendars, 1894-2005

This series contains annual calendars for the club's activities, including the topic for the season, a list of members, officers, hostesses, and sometimes references, arranged chronologically.

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u>Container Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Calendars, 1894-1901 | 2 | 15 |
| Calendars, 1901-1910 | 2 | 16 |
| Calendars, 1910-1920 | 2 | 17 |
| Calendars, 1920-1930 | 3 | 1 |
| Calendars, 1930-1940 | 3 | 2 |
| Calendars, 1940-1950 | 3 | 3 |
| Calendars, 1950-1960 | 3 | 4 |
| Calendars, 1960-1970 | 3 | 5 |
| Calendars, 1970-1980 | 3 | 6 |
| Calendars, 1980-1990 | 3 | 7 |
| Calendars, 1990-2005 | 3 | 8 |

Series 3: Member-related Material, 1880-2002, undated

This series contains material created by club members including poetry, photographs, papers, news clippings, a scrapbook, the Cook Book they produced, and writings. It has been arranged chronologically.

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u>Container Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Poem read by Mary Page on Fourth Anniversary, 1880 | 3 | 9 |
| Notebook of Miss Lillie Ames, 1884-1895 | 3 | 10 |
| Notebook of Miss Mary Johnson, 1884-1895 | 3 | 11 |
| Scrapbook, 1898-1996 | Volume 1 | |

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u>Container Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| "An Account of Outings of Papyrus Club During the Last 25 Years" by Miss Lillie Ames, 1901 | 3 | 12 |
| News clippings, 1901, 1959, 1971-1976, undated | 3 | 13 |
| Invitation and realia from 50 th Anniversary luncheon, 1926 | 3 | 14 |
| Letters from Margaret Wade of early days in Papyrus Club, 1936-1939, undated | 3 | 15 |
| In Memoriam 1884-1996, 1951, undated | 3 | 16 |
| Paper about the club written by Margaret Wade and read by her at a meeting, March 28, 1960 | 3 | 17 |
| Cook Book, 1971 | 3 | 18 |
| Haverhill Citizen Hall of Fame program and biographies, 1986-1988 | 4 | 1 |
| Member photographs, 1986, 2001 | 4 | 2 |
| Paper on Maya Angelou by Pam Drolet, 2000 | 4 | 3 |
| Photographs of holiday meeting/party, 2002 | 4 | 4 |
| 125 th Anniversary invitation, lists of invitees, correspondence, reply cards, photographs, financials, 2002 | 4 | 5 |
| Photographs of charter members, undated [1800s] | 4 | 6 |
| "Famous Chronicles of the 14 Original Members," undated | 4 | 7 |
| Lists of members and historical notes, undated | 4 | 8 |