

Hosford Club Records, 1880-2016, undated

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 48
Creator:	Hosford Club
Title:	Hosford Club Records
Dates:	1880-2016
Size:	5 boxes (2.25 linear feet)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	This collection documents the activities and members of the Hosford Club, one of Haverhill, Massachusetts', oldest women's literary clubs.

Organizational History

The Hosford Club was organized in Haverhill, Massachusetts, in 1875, by Miss Annie E. Johnson, principal of Bradford Academy; Mrs. Mary E. Hosford, wife of the Rev. Benjamin F. Hosford, minister of the Centre Congregational Church; Miss Harriett Nelson, a high school teacher; and Mrs. Ellen Ames. The purpose of the club was "mental improvement." It was decided to limit membership to 25; that there should be a general topic for study; that each member should prepare and read her own paper; that there should be at each meeting one or two brief talks on topics of current interest, and that there should be no food served.

The subject chosen for the first years was Rome, so the club was sometimes referred to as the Rome Club. In the early years, it was simply known as "The Club." In approximately 1893, it took the name of a charter member, Mrs. Mary E. Hosford. The club had no regular officers except for a treasurer and members took turns serving as the hostess. Many of the club's earliest members were teachers and/or wives of prominent Haverhill men. From 1875 to 1954, each year had a theme, but after 1954, each member chose her own subject.

In the second half of the 20th century, members met once a month from October through May to read their essays and finished the year with a luncheon at a restaurant in May. A volunteer kept minutes of the meetings. The club was still active as of 2021.

Arrangement

Series 1. Organizational Records, 1880-2004, undated

Series 2. Members, Programs, and Minutes, 1954-2016, undated

Series 3. Essays, 1953-2005, undated

Scope and Content Note

This collection documents the activities and members of the Hosford Club, one of Haverhill, Massachusetts', oldest women's literary clubs. It has been organized into three series. Series 1 contains record books, two photographs, a written history of the club, news clippings, correspondence, annual reports, a scrapbook, and a program book for the Haverhill Women's Literary Union. Series 2 contains lists of members, lists of essay topics, programs for the year, and minutes of the meetings. Series 3 contains handwritten and printed essays written by members, which were read aloud at meetings.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Hosford Club Records, MSS 48, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Material was acquired from creator.
Acquisition Information:	Early record books, a scrapbook, and some essays and papers were a gift of Patricia Feller, representative of the Hosford Club, in 2017. Additional essays were donated by Gaynelle Cohen in 2021.
Processing Information:	Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021. Updated by Elizabeth Smith, 2024.
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:	Haverhill Women's Literary Union records.
Separated Material:	None.
Conservation Notes:	Newspaper clippings have been photocopied on archival quality paper to preserve their recorded information.

Subjects: Clubs
 Essays
 Haverhill Women's Literary Union
 Haverhill (Mass.)--History
 Hosford Club
 Powell, Virginia R., 1922-2012
 Rome Club
 Scrapbooks
 Women--Societies and clubs

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Organizational Records, 1880-2004, undated

This series contains record books, two photographs, a written history of the club, news clippings, correspondence, annual reports, a scrapbook, and a program book for the Haverhill Women's Literary Union, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Record book, 1880-1884, 1890-1950	1	1
Record book (minutes), 1880-1891	1	2
Haverhill Women's Literary Union program book, 1898	1	3
Scrapbook, 1890-1969	2	
Photographs, 1912-1913	1	4
News clippings, [1920s], 1950-1959, 1996	1	5
History of the Hosford Club, 1949, 1960, 1986	1	6
Correspondence, 1950, 2002-2004	1	7
Annual reports, 1963-1969	1	8
<i>Moments to Remember</i> by Ruth L. Emerson, 1967	1	9
Architectural sketches, undated	1	10

Series 2: Members, Programs, and Minutes, 1954-2016, undated

This series contains lists of members, lists of essay topics, programs for the year, and minutes of the meetings, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Lists of topics, 1883-1886, 1892-1894, undated	1	11

Programs, 1903-1938	1	12
Programs, 1954-1957	1	13
Programs and minutes, 1963-1967	1	14
Attendance record book, 1964-1972	1	15
Programs and minutes, 1968-1974	3	1
Members, programs, and minutes, 1974-1981	3	2
Minutes, 1982-1987	3	3
Members, programs, and minutes, 1987-1991	3	4
Members, programs, and minutes, 1991-1998	3	5
Members, programs, and minutes, 1998-1999	3	6
Members, programs, and minutes, 1999-2000	3	7
Minutes, 2000-2001	3	8
Members, programs, and minutes, 2001-2016	3	9
Member memorials, 2002-2014, undated	3	10
Member biographies by Barbara Bachner, 2015	3	11
Members listed in programs since 1880, undated [2001]	3	12

Series 3: Essays, 1953-2005, undated

This series contains essays written by members, which were read aloud at meetings, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<i>Tuscan Art of the 15th Century</i> by Mrs. George H. Carleton and transcript, undated [1878-1880]	3	13
<i>Edward III</i> by Mrs. George H. Carleton, undated [1885-1887]	3	14
<i>Abigail Adams</i> by Ethel G. Cary, 1953	3	15
<i>The Shakers</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1961	3	16
<i>Baby Doe Tabor: Silver Queen</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1963, undated	3	17
<i>Andrew Wyeth</i> by Marjorie T. Richards, 1963	3	18
<i>Peabody of Groton</i> by Nancy Ayer, 1963	3	19
<i>The Great Hunger: Irish Famine</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1966	3	20
<i>The Challenge of Gallaudet [College]</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1970	4	1
<i>Charles Marion Russell: Cowboy Artist</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1972	4	2
<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<i>Peabody Family</i> by Helen Bradley, 1972	4	3
<i>The Plymouth Adventure</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1973	4	4
<i>The California Gold Rush</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1976	4	5
<i>The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1978	4	6
<i>Mr. Currier and Mr. Ives</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1980	4	7

<i>Adolfus Hitler: Der Führer</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1984	4	8
<i>Safari in Kenya</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1986	4	9
<i>The Glorious Enterprise: The Centennial Exhibition of 1876</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1987	4	10
<i>Old Russia</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1988	4	11
<i>Fred Harvey and the Harvey Girls</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1990	4	12
<i>Ellis Island</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1991	4	13
<i>Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning: The Immortal Lovers</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1993	4	14
<i>Lucy Larcom</i> by Alice Christopher, 1994	4	15
<i>Theodore Roosevelt</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1995	4	16
<i>Mary Todd Lincoln</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 1998	4	17
<i>The Governor Baxter School for the Deaf</i> by Virginia R. Powell, 2002	4	18
<i>To Know and Be Known: Truman Capote</i> by Barbara Bachner, 2003	4	19
<i>The Great River Voyage</i> by Alice Christopher, 2005	4	20
<i>Hiroshige and the Tokaido Road</i> by Betty Malbon, 2005	4	21
<i>Isles of Shoals</i> by Ann Messer, 2005	4	22
<i>The Near Death Experience: An Overview for the Novice</i> by Barbara Bachner, 2005	4	23
<i>The Mormons</i> by Virginia R. Powell, undated	4	24
<i>Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker Buck</i> by Barbara Gove, undated	4	25
<i>Beginnings of Religion in Colonial America</i> by Barbara Howe, undated	4	26
<i>Bridges</i> by Inez Wright, undated	4	27
<i>Winslow Homer</i> by Gladys G. Pope, undated	4	28
<i>The Currier Gallery of Art</i> , undated	4	29
<i>Wyeth Family</i> , undated	4	30
Stevens-Bennet Home Essay, 2005	5	1
2006 Essays, 2006	5	2
2007 Essays, 2007	5	3
2008 Essays, 2008	5	4
2009 Essays, 2009	5	5
2010 Essays, 2010	5	6
2011 Essay, 2011	5	7
2012 Essays, 2012	5	8
2013 Essay, 2013	5	9
2014 Essays, 2014	5	10
2015 Essays, 2015	5	11
2016 Essays, 2016	5	12