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## Hancock Home Study Club Records MS-056

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country  
Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

[copper@mtu.edu](mailto:copper@mtu.edu)

URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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## Table of Contents

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| Summary Information .....                                       | 3  |
| Biography .....   | 3  |
| Collection Scope and Content Summary .....                      | 4  |
| Arrangement .....   | 5  |
| Administrative Information .....                                | 5  |
| Related Materials .....   | 6  |
| Controlled Access Headings .....                                | 6  |
| Collection Inventory .....                                      | 6  |
| Series I, Governing Documents and History .....                 | 6  |
| Series II, Minutes and Annual Reports .....                     | 7  |
| Series III, Operational Records .....                           | 8  |
| Series IV, Membership Records .....                             | 9  |
| Series V, Presentations and Papers .....                        | 9  |
| Series VI, Photographs, Awards, and Miscellaneous Records ..... | 10 |

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## Summary Information

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|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections                  |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Hancock Home Study Club Records   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | MS-056  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1883-2022   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 3.05 cubic feet 2 Paige boxes and 3 manuscript boxes  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 3.05 cubic feet (2 Paige boxes and 3 manuscript boxes)  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English   |
| <b>Mixed Materials [box]:</b>    | 1-5   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | Records, 1883-, of the Hancock Home Study Club, the first women's club in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. |

### Preferred Citation

MS-056, Hancock Home Study Club Records, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biography

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The Hancock Home Study Club has the distinction of being the oldest organized women's club in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. An initial meeting was held May 16, 1883 for the formation of a club for the study of art in connection with the Society for the Encouragement of Study at Home, located in Boston. The first official meeting of the Hancock Home Study Club (HHSC) took place September 1883 with six members. The purpose of the Society for the Encouragement of Study at Home was to "induce ladies to form the habit of devoting some part of every day to study of a systematic and thorough kind." The work was carried on through a correspondent of the Society selected according to the topical area of study. There were no competitive examinations. Reading with the practice of making memory notes was the

method followed, and the correspondent would send tests from time to time which members were expected to answer. They paid dues to the Society of three dollars a year. The Hancock Home Study Club federated with the State Federation in 1900, and the General Federation in 1915. When the Houghton County Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in 1919, the Home Study Club became a member. The club has studied the literature, art, economics, and history of many countries. The focus has changed from ancient and European to the New World, the United States, Michigan, and finally the Copper Country. Recently there has been more emphasis on people. Topics have usually been influenced by world events. Resources were scarce in the developing mining district, so members of the Club were forced to develop their own library. Photographs were purchased by the Club and an album to put them in. Art photographs were received from the Boston Loaning Library, and many books were procured from the Loaning Library in addition to others purchased from vendors in the U.S., Germany and Britain. After a few years a bookcase was purchased for the collection. Eventually the Club donated most of their titles to local public and school libraries. Membership increased to fifteen in 1886 and was extended to thirty at a later date. Most early members lived in Hancock, though membership eventually opened to Ripley, Houghton and the surrounding area. In October 1886, Mrs. Patch was made the first honorary member of the Club. Dues changed from one to three dollars during the first year but were noted at five dollars in 1929 and remained under eight dollars during the 1980s. The Club met in homes until January 1898 when it rented a room in the Y.M.C.A. building for meetings. They moved their bookcase there and decorated the room. However, the room was poorly heated so they moved to City Hall. Here they found that meetings were often disturbed by the fire alarm and the movement of horse carts out of the building. In 1900 they rented a room from Mr. Wright in the Stockley Building and when the Elks offered a free room in 1911 they moved there. During the war a coal shortage obliged them to meet in various other places. The Club returned to the practice of meeting in members' homes in 1959. Meetings were held weekly until 1913 when the Club changed to a biweekly, two hour schedule. The club has been actively involved in many forms of social support. In December 1914, it was decided to take up work for Red Cross Relief and the response to the Home Study Club's appeal for cooperation was very generous. This was the beginning of Red Cross aid in Houghton County. The club has contributed to state scholarship funds, various wartime commissions, and local social agencies including the YMCA, Elks, Good Will, Salvation Army and the Houghton Club. Club members have held office in statewide federations; Estelle Seeber served as President of the Michigan State Federation of Womens' Clubs and Hallie F. Nichols was the first President to the Michigan State Federation of Music Clubs.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Collection Scope and Content Summary

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Records, 1883-, of the Hancock Home Study Club, the first women's club in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Materials found in this collection include yearly programs, papers presented by members, minutes from meetings and annual reports as well as financial records, photographs,

programs from anniversary celebrations and other special events and various documents pertaining to the Club's history.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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MS-056 is arranged in six series: 1. Governing Documents and History, 2. Minutes and Annual Reports, 3. Operational Records, 4. Membership Records, 5. Presentations and Papers, and 6. Photographs, Awards, and Miscellaneous Records.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

[copper@mtu.edu](mailto:copper@mtu.edu)

URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

### Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

### Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

A gavel and printers block was moved to the Memorabilia Collection and a postcard was added to the Postcard Collection. One copy of a photograph of club members in 1934 was added to the Copper Country Vertical file under Organizations.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Financial records
- Histories
- Membership lists
- Yearbooks
- Minutes
- Annual reports
- Women -- Societies and clubs -- Michigan -- Hancock
- Hancock (Mich.)
- Programs

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I, Governing Documents and History, 1933, 1959; 1996-2008, (1996-2004)

#### Scope and Contents

This series includes items on the history of the Hancock Home Study Club and governing documents including the club constitution and bylaws.

| Title/Description  | Instances |          |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Items on the History of the Hancock Home Study Club, 1933; 1996-1997; 2004 | box 1     | folder 1 |
| Constitution and Bylaws, 1959, 1998, 2003, 2008                            | box 1     | folder 2 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series II, Minutes and Annual Reports, 1889-2020

### Scope and Contents

Records found in this series include the minutes and annual reports of the Hancock Home Study Club.

| Title/Description                              | Instances |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1889-1892          | box 1     | folder 3  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1893-1896          | box 1     | folder 4  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1897-1901          | box 1     | folder 5  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1901-1904          | box 1     | folder 6  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1904-1909          | box 1     | folder 7  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1909-1913          | box 1     | folder 8  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1913-1919          | box 1     | folder 9  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1919-1927          | box 1     | folder 10 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1927-1932          | box 1     | folder 11 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1932-1935          | box 1     | folder 12 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1936-1942          | box 1     | folder 13 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1943-1950          | box 1     | folder 14 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1951-1955          | box 1     | folder 15 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1956-1963          | box 1     | folder 16 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1964-1970          | box 1     | folder 17 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1970-1976          | box 1     | folder 18 |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1976-1977          | box 2     | folder 1  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports (1 of 2), 1981-1993 | box 2     | folder 2  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports (2 of 2), 1981-1993 | box 2     | folder 3  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 1994-1998          | box 2     | folder 4  |
| Minutes, 1998-1999                             | box 5     | folder 1  |
| Minutes, 1999-2000                             | box 5     | folder 2  |
| Minutes, 2000-2001                             | box 5     | folder 3  |
| Minutes, 2001-2002                             | box 5     | folder 4  |
| Minutes, 2002-2003                             | box 5     | folder 5  |

|   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Minutes, 2003-2004                                    | box 2 | folder 5  |
| Minutes, 2004-2005                                    | box 2 | folder 6  |
| Minutes, February 2006-May 2012                       | box 5 | folder 6  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 2006-2014                 | box 4 | folder 13 |
| Minutes, October 2012-May 2013                        | box 5 | folder 7  |
| Minutes and Annual Reports, 2015-2016                 | box 4 | folder 15 |
| Minutes and annual reports, September 2019-April 2020 | box 4 | folder 16 |
| Past annual reports, 1978-2018                        | box 5 | folder 14 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series III, Operational Records, 1882-1994

### Scope and Contents

Financial records including cash books, treasurer's reports, bank statements, receipts, bank passbooks, and an accounts letter. Also found in this series are the library books used by the club to record books borrowed by members.

| Title/Description                  | Instances |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash Book, 1883-1892               | box 2     | folder 7  |
| Cash Book, 1892-1908               | box 2     | folder 8  |
| Cash Book, 1907-1935               | box 2     | folder 9  |
| Cash Book, 1935-1951               | box 2     | folder 10 |
| Library Book, 1887-1897            | box 2     | folder 11 |
| Library Book, 1897-1911            | box 2     | folder 12 |
| Treasurer's Reports, 1956-1963     | box 2     | folder 13 |
| Bank Statements, 1956-1963         | box 2     | folder 14 |
| Gift Acknowledgements, 1956-1963   | box 2     | folder 15 |
| Receipts, 1956-1962                | box 2     | folder 16 |
| Bank Passbook, Jan 1961-Mar 1984   | box 2     | folder 17 |
| Gift Acknowledgements, 1956-1963   | box 3     | folder 15 |
| Receipts, 1956-1962                | box 2     | folder 16 |
| Bank Passbook, Jun 1961- Mar 1984  | box 2     | folder 17 |
| Accounts Ledger, Sep 1951-Jan 1972 | box 2     | folder 18 |



[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series IV, Membership Records, 1887; 1974-2000; 2008

### Scope and Contents

Membership records consisting of member profiles, correspondence, both general and related to membership status, and obituaries for Esther Lutermill.

| Title/Description                                 | Instances |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Member Profiles, 1996-1997                        | box 2     | folder 19 |
| Correspondence, 1887, 2000                        | box 2     | folder 20 |
| Correspondence-Membership Status, 1974-1989; 1994 | box 2     | folder 21 |
| Newsprint-Esther Intermill, 2008                  | box 2     | folder 22 |
| Member Profiles, 2008                             | box 4     | folder 13 |
| Alice H. Boyce, obituary, 2014                    | box 5     | folder 13 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series V, Presentations and Papers, 1896-2016

### Scope and Contents

Programs and Yearbooks pertaining to the topics covered at meetings, documents and photographs relating to anniversaries celebrated by the Hancock Home Study Club and papers presented by members.

| Title/Description              | Instances |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1896-1900 | box 2     | folder 23 |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1901-1910 | box 2     | folder 24 |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1911-1920 | box 2     | folder 25 |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1921-1930 | box 2     | folder 26 |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1935-1955 | box 3     | folder 1  |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1956-1963 | box 3     | folder 2  |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1964-1980 | box 3     | folder 3  |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1981-1993 | box 3     | folder 4  |
| Programs, 1981-1995            | box 3     | folder 6  |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 1931-1935 | box 3     | folder 5  |
| Programs, 1995-2002            | box 3     | folder 7  |
| Programs, 1996-2003            |           |           |

|   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
|   | box 5 | folder 8  |
| Programs/ Yearbooks, 2008-2011  | box 4 | folder 11 |
| Programs, 2010-2016   | box 5 | folder 9  |
| Programs, 2018-2022   | box 5 | folder 10 |
| Program set up info, 2009, 2016-2017  | box 5 | folder 11 |
| Fortieth and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations, 1922-1923                     | box 3 | folder 8  |
| Centennial Celebration , 1983   | box 3 | folder 9  |
| 110th Anniversary, 1993   | box 3 | folder 10 |
| Papers Presented, 1981-1993   | box 4 | folder 1  |
| Papers Presented, 1991-1994   | box 4 | folder 2  |
| Papers Presented, 1994-2000   | box 4 | folder 3  |
| Audrey Frair presentation on Calumet Theatre volunteering, CD-R, October 2011 | box 5 | folder 12 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series VI, Photographs, Awards, and Miscellaneous Records, 1883-1895; 1927-1958, 2000-2012

### Scope and Contents

Records found in this series include photographs relating to club meetings and other gatherings, Awards and correspondence from Girlstown and the UP Federation of Women's Clubs. Also found in this collection are correspondence, order forms, and newsprint concerning the Society to Encourage Study at Home.

| Title/Description  | Instances |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Photographs, 1934-1935   | box 4     | folder 4  |
| Girlstown, 1975, 1978; 1983-1984                               | box 4     | folder 5  |
| UP District Federation of Women's Clubs, 1937                  | box 4     | folder 6  |
| Society to Encourage Study at Home, 1883-1884; 1895, 1923      | box 4     | folder 7  |
| Photographs-Luncheon, 1938                                     | box 4     | folder 8  |
| Photographs- Meeting, 2001, Mar 3; 2009                        | box 4     | folder 9  |
| Awards and Distinctions, 1958, 2001                            | box 4     | folder 10 |
| <b>Esther Intermill's 100th Birthday Celebration, Oct 2008</b> | box 4     | folder 12 |
| Meeting Photographs, 2006, 2012                                |           |           |

Hancock Home Study Club Records MS-056

|   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
|   | box 4 | folder 14 |
| 125th anniversary newspaper clipping, 2008 June 25                        | box 4 | folder 17 |
| Newspaper clippings and photographs, anniversaries and events, 1983, 2011 | box 5 | folder 15 |
| Group photographs, undated  | box 5 | folder 16 |
| Meeting photographs, Jan Armstrong's home, undated                        | box 5 | folder 17 |
| Photographs, unidentified, 2008   | box 5 | folder 18 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)