Hancock Home Study Club Records MS-056

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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Hancock Home Study Club Records
ID:	MS-056
Date [inclusive]:	1883-2025
Physical Description:	3.05 cubic feet 2 Paige boxes and 3 manuscript boxes
Physical Description:	3.05 cubic feet (2 Paige boxes and 3 manuscript boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-4
Mixed Materials [box]:	5
Abstract:	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.

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Biography

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.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

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.

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Arrangement

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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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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.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

A gavel and printers block was moved to the Memorabillia 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.

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Controlled Access Headings

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

Collection Inventory

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

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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
Meeting minutes, April 2021-April 2025	box 5	folder 19-21

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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 Acknowlegements, 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

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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

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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

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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
Esther Intermill's 100th Birthday Celebration, Oct 2008	box 4	folder 12
Meeting Photographs, 2006, 2012	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

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