

Collection #  
M 1187  
DVD 0702

## INDIANAPOLIS WOMAN'S CLUB RECORDS, 2007–2014

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

Processed by

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7 July, 2015

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 5 manuscript boxes; 1 folder color photographs; 1 DVD of photographs.

**COLLECTION DATES:** 2007-2014

**PROVENANCE:** Indianapolis Woman's Club, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2014

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Indianapolis Woman's Club Records (M 0478); Indianapolis Propylaeum Records (M 0699); Merrill-Graydon Family Papers (M 0609); Varney-Porter Family Papers (M 0639); Caroline Dunn Papers (M 0667); Margaret Booth Jameson Papers (SC 1910).

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2011.0126, 2013.0028, 2013.0125, 2014.0059, 2015.0154, 2015. 0216

**NOTES:**

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The Indianapolis Woman's Club, the oldest club of its type in Indiana, was founded 18 February 1875 in the home of Martha Nicholson McKay at 156 Ash Street (now Carrollton Ave). The founding members are generally thought to be Eliza T. Clarke, Katherine L. Dorsey, Laura Giddings Julian, Belle Thorpe Manlove, H. Kate Martin, Martha Nicholson McKay, Henrietta Athon Morrison, Elizabeth Nicholson, Jane F. Nicholson. Sarah R. Perrine, Nancy G. Roberts, and May Wright Sewall. There has been some discussion as to which of these founders attended that first meeting, as the minutes do not list all those present. The constitution of the club was finalized 25 February of the same year.

To become a member one's name must be proposed by other current members and is discussed and debated by the membership committee. This rigorous selection procedure and the mood of the club keep the membership small; only about one hundred individuals are active members at any one time. In addition to the regular members, there are corresponding members around the country, who have retired as active members, and privileged members, who are excused from the literary duties required from the rest of the membership.

The purpose of the club, as set forth in the constitution, is to "form an organized center for the mental and social culture of its members and for the improvement of domestic life. To this end of association encourages a liberal interchange of thought by papers and discussion upon all subjects pertaining to its objects." As requirement for membership, each woman must prepare and present literary papers on a research topic of their choosing. There are no formal restraints on what topic they can choose though, there is an unwritten, yet well-known rule that all discussion of religion or politics would not be permitted.

The women of the Indianapolis Woman's Club are charitable woman who participate in outside organizations and movements. Original members worked with the woman's suffrage movement, with some even founding the unsuccessful Indianapolis Woman's Suffrage League of 1873. There have been receptions for notable women such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Indianapolis Woman's Club records pick up where the original records leave off, 2007. Club minutes, officer reports, yearbooks, programs, announcement, anniversary materials are all included up to current records. The collection is divided into 11 series: Minutes, Officers, Membership, Other Committees, Activities and Anniversaries, Memorials, Yearbooks, Registers and History, Literary Events, and Papers.

**Series 1-4** includes the copies of meeting and committee minutes, officer reports, as well as annual reports from all committees and all officer positions. The minutes run through the club's activities as well as provides small summaries of the literary works presented for that day. The club meets the first and third Fridays of each month from October to June.

**Series 5** includes annual activities that the club sponsors and participates in, as well as the 140th anniversary committee and invitations.

**Series 6** provides newspaper obituaries and narrated memorials dedicated to the deceased members from 2007-2013.

**Series 7** includes the yearbooks and newspaper clippings from those years, 2007-2013.

**Series 8** includes the registers of active and current members, as well as privileged and corresponding members. Included is also the lists of presented papers in chronological order, as well as the first few oral histories of 50 year members.

**Series 9** presents the annual joint literary events the club members attend throughout the year with other notable Indianapolis literary clubs.

**Series 10** consists of original copies and photocopies of papers presented by club members, current and archival. They include historical sketches, personal narratives, and social commentary.

**Series 11** is a photo album of the 140th anniversary.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Minutes**

#### CONTENTS

Minutes, 5 Oct. 2007- 5 Dec. 2008

Minutes, 16 Jan. 2009- 19 Feb. 2010

Minutes, 5 Mar. 2010- 18 Mar. 2011

Minutes, 1 Apr. 2011- 15 Mar. 2013

Minutes, 5 Apr. 2013- 5 Jun. 2015

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

### **Series 2: Officers**

#### CONTENTS

President's Remarks, 2 Nov. 2007- 5 Dec. 2008

President's Remarks, 16 Jan. 2009- 4 Dec. 2009

President's Remarks, 15 Jan. 2010- 1 Apr. 2011

President's Remarks, 15 Apr. 2011- 3 Feb. 2012

President's Remarks, 17 Feb. 2012-

President and IWC Annual Reports, 2011-

Vice President Annual Reports, 5 Jun. 2009-

Treasurer Reports and Annual Budget, 18 Jan. 2008-

Receipts and Budget, 2008-

Corresponding Secretary Reports, 6 Jun. 2008

Recording Secretary Reports, 4 Jun. 2009

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

### **Series 3: Membership**

#### CONTENTS

Membership Committee Reports, 2011

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 17

Membership Lists and Corrections, 2008-2013	Box 1, Folder 18
Recommendation Letters, 2008-2009	Box 1, Folder 19
Membership Due Forms	Box 1, Folder 20

**Series 4: Other Committees**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Executive Committee Reports, 2007-	Box 2, Folder 1
Room Committee Reports, 2008-	Box 2, Folder 2
By-Laws Committee Proposals	Box 2, Folder 3
Archives Committee, 2008-	Box 2, Folder 4
Nominating Committee, 2008-	Box 2, Folder 5
Long Range Planning, 2012-	Box 2, Folder 6
Founders Fund Committee, 2012-	Box 2, Folder 7
President's Day Committee, 2011-	Box 2, Folder 8

**Series 5: Activities and Anniversaries**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
President's Day Toasts, 2007-2009; 2011-	Box 2, Folder 9
President's Day Programs, 2008-	Box 2, Folder 10
50 Year Members Tea, 2008; 2014-	Box 2, Folder 11
140th Anniversary	Box 2, Folder 12
Propylaeum Bulletin, 2014	Box 2, Folder 13
Sewall Award Invitation, 2012; 2014	Box 2, Folder 14

## **Series 6: Memorials**

### CONTENTS

Memorials A-Z

**Ashby**, Susan G, 2008; **Best**, Mary Sue, 2014; **Brown**, Dewitt W, 2008; **Davis**, Margaret Alandt, 2008; **Gaus**, Laura Sheerin, 2011; **Hamer**, Sarah F, 2008; **Hartley**, Elizabeth, N.D; **Jeffrey**, Nancy Bell Wohlgemuth, 2008; **Lindseth**, Marilyn Miller, 2012; **Nie**, Elizabeth K, 2011; **Peacock**, Sylvia Griffith, 2010; **Rasmussen**, Catherine Glosbrenner, 2010; **Sanderson**, Sara, 2014. **Sherwood**, Maxine Moyer, 2008; **Shullenberger**, Anne Davis, 2015; **Steele**, Pam Wasson, 2013; **Storer**, Barbara Ann Frantz, 2013. **Troyer**, Isabelle, 2013; **Wilson**, Marjorie, 2013; **Zimmer**, Barbara E, 2010.

### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 15

## **Series 7: Yearbooks**

### CONTENTS

Yearbook, 2008-2014

Newspaper Clippings

### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 16

Box 2, Folder 17

## **Series 8: Registers and History**

### CONTENTS

Schedules and Lists, 2008-2014

Interviews, 2012-

Correspondence, 2008

Correspondence, 2009

Correspondence, 2010

### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 18

Box 2, Folder 19

Box 2, Folder 20

Box 2, Folder 21

Box 2, Folder 22

## **Series 9: Literary Events**

### CONTENTS

Spring Twilights, 26 Apr. 2012

Joint Literary Meeting, 2013-

### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 23

Box 2, Folder 24

## Series 10: Literary Papers

### CONTENTS

A-BA

**Allen, Janet**, "If This Isn't Nice, What Is?" 2008; "What My Daughter Taught Me on the Way to Her Bat Mitzvah," 2009; "The Greatest of the Greats: Mary's Story," 2012; "Our New Harmony," 2014. **Altemeyer, Teresa**, "Up, Up and Away," 2008; "A Cherished History," 2011; "Memories," 2012; "The Unexpected South," 2015. **Anker, Pat**, "Family is More Than a Relative Thing," 2011; "The Handwritten Word," 2013. **Barney, Sarah Cook**, "Oh, So Social," 2008; "John, Minnie, and Morris: 'Twas Complicated," 2011; "19th Century Cross Currents," 2014.

BE-CO

**Bennett, Dagrún**, "Peace is Sweet," 2013, **Carlson, Marsha**, "The Highway and Me," 2012; "Ladies Start Your Engines," 2014. **Carter, Bonnie**, "2 J's and a B," 2009. **Christy, Nancy**, "A Hoosier in Hong Kong," 2009; "Lee Kuan Yew," 2011; "One Leads to Another," 2015. **Connor, Ulla**, "The Story of my Bicycle," 2008; "To Retire or Not to Retire," 2012; "Finland and Japan," 2013.

D-FE

**Devoe, Mary**, "Dr. Will and Dr. Charlie," 2007; "A Mother Is the Child's Classroom," 2009; "A Good Day in the Dirt," 2014. **Dean, Margaret Gladdings**, "Strew Lilies with Full Hands," 2010; "Angels and Pins," 2012. **Emerson, Sarah E**, "Awakenings," 2009; "Heroes," 2012; "Peacemakers," 2014. **Fechtman, Marni**, "Taoism," 2014; "Woodblock," 2015; "Okinawa," N.D. **Feldman, Becky**, "A Twist of Fate," 2010.

### CONTAINER

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 2

Box 3, Folder 3



FI-G

Box 3, Folder 4

**Fisher, Cynthia**, "Why We Wear What We Wear," 2012; "You'll Like Linton," 2014. **Fletcher, Judy Brown**, "Boxed in," 2008; "Redux or a Conversation about 1920 and Today," 2012. "And Then There was '30," 2012; "Were You Here in 1940?" 2014. **Fyffe, Nancy Callaway**, "Family Stories," 2009; "Woman is the Buyer of Everything," 2013; "Meanings," N.D. **Geeslin, Phyllis D**, "Almost a Century Later," 2008. **Geise, Maria**, "The Journey Within," 2015. **Gordner, Sandy**, "Three Points Touching," 2007; "A City Gone Wild," 2015. **Grant, Terri**, "A room of One's Own," 2015. **Grove, Kathleen Surina**, "Don't Shut Yourself Up in a Bandbox," N.D; "The Grandmother Effect," 2015.

HA-HI

Box 3, Folder 5

**Hamilton, Sharon J**, "Mind, Memory, and Meaning," 2007. **Helveston, Barbara**, "Harbor Heights," 2009; "Love is the Reward," 2011; "The Millionaires Club," 2013; "Ladies First," 2015. **Hiatt, Nora McKinney**, "Final Words," 2011; "So Near and Yet So Far," 2013; "Miss Sally," 2015. **Hines, Mary**, "Pocahontas," 2015. **Hill, Nancy Duiser**, "Water, Water Everywhere," 2007; "Chisel to Touch," 2011; "The Emperor's New Nose," 2013.

HU-I

Box 3, Folder 6

**Hurt, Sandra**, "When is a Mystery Not a Mystery?" 2012; "Women in the Ancient World," 2013. **Hurwitz, Francine Rosenblatt**, "A painter, a Poet," 2008; "A Question of Not if But When," 2009; "Gardens," 2010; "Nature," 2011; "Have You Heard Of?" 2014. **Ingraham, Ruthann**, "Follow the Piste," 2011; "Ready to Take off," 2012. **Ingulli-Fattic, Joann M**, "The Helena May of Hong Kong," 2011; "Journey Through the Paint Box," 2013.

J-KO

Box 3, Folder 7

**Jackson, Diana**, "Aunt Neve," 2009; "Follow the River," 2012. **Jacobsen, Jamia**, "100 Years of History Through Cookbooks," N.D; "Uncommon and Expensive," 2015. **Jenkins, Elizabeth**, "The Nerve!" 2009. **Jolly, Laura**, "Connections," 2008; "Connections," 2010. **Kingdon, Marie**, "Cuba," 2010; "She Just Said 'No'," 2012; "The First," 2015. **Koch, Kay**, "Wind, Water, Health," 2011; "Designing Indianapolis," 2013.

KR-L

Box 3, Folder 8

**Krasen, Liliane**, "A Hidden Story," 2004; "The Butler Case," 2013; "An Unsung Act," 2015. **Kulwin, Shirley**, "Growing Up With Steak and Shake," 2010; "A History of Diamonds," 2013. **Lausch, Carolyn**, "Fan-Tastic," 2008; "A Study of Gerald Manley," 2010; "Critters, Certainly," 2012. **Libby, Judith**, "Private Places to Public Spaces," 2013. **Lichtenauer, Catharine**, "Putting on Chars" 2008; "Food for Thought," 2010. **Lindseth, Marilyn**, "Mighty As," 2007.

M-N

Box 4, Folder 1

**McPhearson, Heather**, "Alice McKinney," 2014. **Moore, Karin**, "Ostrava," 2014. **Mueller, Shirley**, "The Neuropsychology of the Collector," 2009; "Naughty Presidential, China Faked," 2011; "The First Mrs. Eli Lilly," 2013. **Neal, Andrea**, "More Sinned Against Than Sinning," 2012; "Good Times in Our Tents," 2014. **Neville, Susan**, "Vermilion," 2011; "So Here We All Are," 2012. **Nie, Elizabeth**, "A View of the Glass Room," 2010. **Nolan, Jane**, "Life in the Midst of Death," 2009; "Winners," 2012; "The Main Stem," 2013.

O-P

Box 4, Folder 2

**O'Blennis, Jan**, "A Four Letter Word," 2008. **Paine, Jane**, "Missing," 2009; "See Saw," 2011. **Patchen, Mary**, "The History of Books," 2008. **Patterson, Katie**, "Chicks with Sticks, Part Two," 2008; "A Pinch of Magic," 2010; "Tracings," 2012; "No Strings Attached," 2014. **Peacock, Farideh**, "Camden Town," 2008. **Pettengill, Marian**, "IRT," 2014. **Plater, Gail**, "Dear Mrs. Pankhurst," 2010.

Q-R

Box 4, Folder 3

**Quinn, Jean**, "Starbucks," 2008; "Starbucks: Phase 2," 2010. **Rathbun, Josette C.** "The Convention at Seneca Falls," 2014. **Reilly, Bonnie**, "What Brand is This?" 2009; "Family Matters," 2011; "Daddy's Girl," N.D; "Skeletons in My Closet," 2015. **Renkins, Debra**, "Poets and Pioneers," 2010; "On the Road to Cana," 2012; "Just a Pinch," 2014. **Rodenberg, Harriet**, "Alphabet Soup," 2010; "I Pledge Allegiance," 2012; "Minding Your P's and Q's," 2013. **Rosenthal, Ellen**, "Off the Wall," 2012; "Oh, Boy," 2014.

S-SE

Box 4, Folder 4

**Sanderson, Sara**, "It's About Time," 2009; "Come Fill Your Cup," 2011; "The Turn of a Page," 2013. **Schloss, Alice**, "Network News," 2008; "So Much More Than Tiny Bathing Suits," 2010. **Scott, Katherine**, "What a Difference a Letter Makes," 2011; "The Source," 2014. **Sehlinger, Sabine**, "Only a Voice," 2007; "A Queen and Her Four Kings," 2009.

SM-SW

Box 4, Folder 5

**Smithburn, Susan**, "The Travels of the Wawel Arrasse," 2009; "Manse: He Burn, Three Sleeps Past," 2012; "String Theory," 2014. **Smith, Harriet**, "All that Anchors My Soul," 2010; "The Gangsters of Nature," 2012; "Out, Out Damn Spot," 2014. **Smith, Nancy Chesterman**, "Seven Steeples," 2009. **Swedeen, Ann**, "Straighten Up and Fly Right," 2008; "An International Love Affair," 2010; "An Intriguing Proposal," 2013.

T

Box 4, Folder 6

**Tanner, Rosemary**, "A Land Between Two Seas," 2007; "It's a Girl," 2008; "Be It Ever So Humble," 2010. **Tindall, Jan**, "Silent Wilderness," 2015. **Tittle, Sue Deems**, "The Third Spin of the Susan," 2011. **Tolliver, Diane**, "Look Up," 2015. **Towne, Marian K** "The One-Room Country School House," 2008; "Growing Up: Where Was It?" N.D.

W-WI

Box 4, Folder 7

**Waller, Martha**, "A Castle in Spain," 2009. **White, Anna**, "Competitions," 2009; "Syttende Mai," 2014. **Wiegel, Gretchen**, "Carrot Cake in the Wings," 2013. **Wilhoite, Caryl**, "Your Name Will Be Mud," 2010; "I'm Not Bossy," 2012; "The Answer Was 'No'," 2014. **Williams, Jan**, "Her Name Was Eve," 2010; "Sixty Million Miles Ahead of Their Time," 2012.

WI

Box 4, Folder 8

**Willing, Katherine**, "Where Do You Live," 2008; "Close By the Wabash," 2011; "Boo," 2013; "Nine Papers or Eighteen Years," 2015. **Winchell, Judie**, "Shall We Dance?" 2008; "Diamonds Are A Girls' Best Friend," 2010. **Winslow, Mary**, "The Enigma of the Caribbean," 2010; "I Never Met a Bargain I Didn't Like," 2013; "No Kale?" 2014.

V-U

Box 4, Folder 9

**Vanausdall, Jeanette**, "The Final Bell," 2009; "Forays and Mores," 2012. **Usher, Alice**, "Madonna's Grandmother," 2008.

Double Authors

Box 5, Folder 1

**Adair-Ward, Phyllis and Sandy Gordner**, "Brown and Blue Iris," 2011. **Feldman, Becky and Sandy Gordner**, "WWW," 2013. **Feldman, Becky and Kay Koch**, "Out of the Darkness," 2015. **Golichowski, Mary and Liz Jenkins**, "Arvilla: Blue Bells and Winter Aconites," 2011. **Krasean, Liliane and Gretchen Wiegel**, "He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not," 2011. **Riley, Anne and Maxine Sherwood**, "Epsom Salts," 2008.

Archival Papers

C-G

Box 5, Folder 2

**Cunning, Madeleine**, "Shelley," 1952; "The English Sonnet," 1961; "John Keats," N.D. **Gould, Sallie**, "Bulls in the China Factory," 1980. **Golichowski, Mary**, "Child's Play," 1986; "Royal Expressions," 1993; "Les Soeurs Arrivent," 1995; "MD to the Rescue," 1999; "For Dappled Things," N.D.

J

Box 5, Folder 3

**Jones, Betty Mullins**, "In Loco Parentis," N.D.; "Amazing Grace," N.D.; "Deer Tracks," N.D.; "More For Books Than Chewing Gum," N.D.

M

Box 5, Folder 4

**Morris, Lila Hunter**, "The Group of Seven," 1983; "So Soon?" 1984; "Cultural Anomalies," 1987; "Today's Troubadour," 1989; "Let's," 1993; "A Jayhawker," 1996; "A Swan Song," 1998.

S

Box 5, Folder 5

**Shullenberger, Anne Davis**, "Nearly Half the World Away," 1951; "F. Scott Fitzgerald," 1955; "Minstrel, By Whose Singing Side Beauty Walked," 1957; "Chops and Tomato Sauce," 1963; "Long Ago and Here to Stay," 1967; "A Conversation," 1969; Remembrance of Things Fast," 1981; "Touch and Go," 1988.

ST

Box 5, Folder 6

**Stillson, Blanche**, "Interpretations," 1944; "Rarae Aves," 1950; "Wings," 1952; "As They Saw It," 1957; "Do You See What I See," 1964.

Box 5, Folder 7

**Stillson, Blanche**, "A Bird is a Bird is a Bird," N.D. "Medieval Heaven," N.D. "Isabella d'Este," N.D.

### **Series 11: Photo Album**

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

140th Anniversary Album (1 of 2)

Box 5, Folder 8

140th Anniversary Album (2 of 2)

Box 5, Folder 9

Photographs from Anniversary Album

Photographs: Folder 1 of 1

Digital Photographs of Anniversary

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