

Finding Aid to the Fargo Fortnightly Club Records

Fargo Fortnightly Club

Fargo Fortnightly Club Records, 1895-1982

1.8 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 35

Mss 1560

[History](#)

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Fargo Fortnightly Club, 1979 (Acc. 2040) and 1983 (Acc. 2088).

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Fargo Fortnightly Club Records, MS 35. Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

HISTORY

The Fargo Fortnightly Club was founded in 1895 as the Fortnightly Literary Club. It became the Fortnightly Club the following year. The first president was Mrs. E. Folsom. The Fortnightly Club has taken part in civic and educational affairs in the community as well as carrying out its own study programs, usually concerning foreign nations. The Fargo Fortnightly Club became a member of the North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs in 1896 and Mrs. C.E. Tuller, a vice president of the Fortnightly Club was elected as the first president of the North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs. During the first twenty-five years of the Federation, four members of the Fortnightly Club served as officers and/or

directors on its board. They were Mrs. R.M. Pollock, Mrs. F.H. Winder, Mrs. W.L. Stockwell and Mrs. Amidon. Mrs. O.A. Stevens was elected Federation director in 1926 and 1930. Mrs. W.E. Brentzel was elected Federation director, clubwoman editor, vice president and ultimately president in 1952. In 1958 Mrs. T.W. Thordarson was elected President of the Fourth District of the Federation as well as a Director.

In its first twenty-five years of existence, the Fargo Fortnightly Club supported the establishment of a public library in Fargo, help create neighborhood clubs that preceded parent-teacher associations, campaigned to require inspection in food processing and marketing, and promoted the first well-baby clinic. Particularly significant, the club, led by Beulah Amidon, and Hattie Davis, initiated the movement to erect the Sakakawea Statue on the grounds of the state capital in Bismarck. In the next twenty-five years the Fortnightly Club worked to ease the effects of the depression and war. Money was sent to aid needy children abroad. Tools were purchased to equip a "Putter Shop" at the YMCA for unemployed men to learn skills. These tools were later donated to the Boy Scouts when the shop was closed. The tuberculosis sanitarium at Dunseith was given books and money for periodicals when it had a large number of patients. The Club also sponsored an Open Forum to promote learning and leadership.

The third twenty-five years were primarily devoted to service for young people. Safety zones along streets past public schools were encouraged by the club and established. A lighting project in school areas, public streets, and private homes brought Fortnightly national recognition by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The club maintains a program of student assistance involving loans and scholarships for young women in colleges, business schools and schools of nursing. The Knowlton Fund, Shoeniger Fund and General Federation of Women's Clubs - Shell Oil Company Foundation are the primary programs which perform this function. Several members have achieved notable status. In 1909 Mattie Davis was elected president of the North Dakota Education Association. Mrs. R.M. Pollock was a pioneer in the woman's suffrage, movement and Mrs. O.A. Stevens was voted North Dakota Mother of the Year in 1967. As the name indicates, the club continues to meet on a bi-weekly basis in member homes. Membership has three categories: active, life, and honorary.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Fargo Fortnightly Club Records** consists of correspondence, meeting minutes, treasurers and historians records, constitutions and by-laws, annual program booklets, writings, publications, newspaper clippings and various subject files.

The [Correspondence Series](#) is arranged chronologically with separate files for the letters of the Fatherless Children of France, the 1967 North Dakota Mother of the Year and the Sakakawea Statue.

The [Meeting Minutes Series](#) is contained in eight scrapbooks, the years ranging from 1901 to 1980. Nine versions of the [Constitution and By-laws Series](#) is included in chronological order, including a revision in 1954.

The [Treasurers Records Series](#) is contained in one book 1906 - 1952/53 inclusive. The [Historians Records Series Records](#) range from 1939 to 1979 but evidence suggests that misplaced records dating earlier have been written.

The [Annual Program Booklets Series](#) dating from 1895 to 1982 is complete. There is one copy for every year. In the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s there are multiple copies for certain years. They were retained because of the variety of cover styles in these years, some of which are wallpaper, evidence of poor economic times and the resourcefulness of the organization. All newspaper clippings throughout this collection are arranged in chronological order.

The [Writings Series](#) is arranged in alphabetical order by their source. A separate file is devoted to Mattie Davis newspaper clippings but the bulk of the clippings are contained in two scrapbooks.

The [Subject Files Series](#) contain a wide variety of information. Awards and Citations presented to the Club are kept in alphabetical order from the source with a separate file for Mrs. O. A. Stevens, 1967 Mother of the Year. The material relating to Fortnightly participation in the North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs is considerable. Of particular interest is the Fortnightly Club presidents annual reports to the Fourth District Convention of the Federation, dating from 1952 to 1969 plus the club year 1973/74. The small obituary file is arranged alphabetically as is the resolutions file. Material involving the Sakakawea Statue is extensive and the statue notes are quite informative. The student assistance files contain facts regarding the types of funds the club raised for college girls. The scrapbook contains mainly newspaper clippings about club activities and members.

SEPARATION RECORD

The following non-manuscript items were removed from the Fargo Fortnightly Club records and have been sent to the sections indicated.

Books (Cataloged into Institute Publications Collection)

- *Brief History of North Dakota* by Edgar Meinzer... 1915
- *Social Survey of Fargo, North Dakota*, by Associated Charities ... 1915

Photographs (Institute Photo Mss 35)

- 17 items: various photographs of Fortnightly Club members, their homes and Sakakawea statue.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
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1/1	Biographical material, and Finding aid
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Correspondence Series

1/2	1904-1915, 1923-1926, 1940-1945, 1960-1970, 1974-1975
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- 1/3 Fatherless Children of France, 1918-1920
- 1/4 North Dakota Mother of the Year, 1967
- 1/5 Sakakawea statue, 1905-1912, 1924

Meeting Minutes Series

- 1/6 1901-1907
- 1/7 1907-1914, 1914-1921
- 1/8 1921-1928
- 1/9 1928-1932
- 1/10 1932-1940
- 1/11 1940-1953
- 2/1 1953-1965
- 2/2 1965-1980

Constitutions and By-laws Series

- 2/3 1897, 1900, 1907/08, 1940, 1954, 1955, 1974, 1980

Treasurer's Reports Series

- 2/4 1906-1952/53

Historian's Reports Series

- 2/5 1939/40-1975/76, 1977/78-1978/79

Annual Program Booklets Series

- 2/6 1895/96-1899/1900
- 2/7 1900/01-1904/05
- 2/8 1905/06-1909/10
- 2/9 1910/11-1914/15
- 2/10 1915/16-1919/20
- 2/11 1920/21-1924/25
- 3/1 1925/26-1929/30
- 3/2 1930/31-1934/35
- 3/3 1934/35-1938/39
- 3/4 1938/39-1939/40
- 3/5 1940/41-1942/43
- 3/6 1943/44-1946/47
- 3/7 1946/47-1948/49
- 3/8 1949/50-1951/52
- 3/9 1952/53-1956/57

3/10 1957/58-1961/62
4/1 1962/63-1967/68
4/2 1968/69-1972/73
4/3 1973/74-1982/83

Club Writings Series

4/4 Mrs. Best gives history of W.C.T.U. in Fargo
4/5 Wanda Brentzel/Presentation, 1975
4/6 Mattie Davis/Some Pioneer Work in Education, 1926
4/7 John F. Kennedy Obituary, 1963
4/8 Little Chronicle/Helped to Open an Empire, 1905
4/9 Mrs. O.A. Stevens/Speech, 1967
4/10 WDAY/Original Radio Skit, 1944
Miscellaneous Publications
4/11 Cass County Rural Festival, 1930
4/12 *The Pennant*, 1940
4/13 Women's Club of Fargo/Constitution and By-Laws, 1895
Newspaper Clippings
4/14 Mattie Davis, 1906-1933
4/15 Miscellaneous, 1907, 1932, 1966

Subject Files Series

4/16 Anniversaries/Fiftieth, 1945
4/17 Anniversaries/Seventy-Fifth, 1970
Awards/Citations,
4/18 Club, 1902, 1932, 1964-1975
4/19 Club members
4/20 Newspaper Clippings
4/21 N.D. Mother of the Year (1967) / Mrs. O.A. Stevens, 1967
North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs -
4/22 Organizational, 1954, 1974
4/23 Presidents Annual Reports, 1952-1969, 1973/74
4/24 Year Books 1904/05, 1906/07 - 1908/09, 1910/11
4/25 Year Books, 1912/13, 1915/16
5/1 Convention Programs, 1904, 1906-1907, 1910, 1913
5/2 Convention Programs, 1914, 1924-1926, 1940, 1962, 1969
5/3 N.D. Clubwoman, 1939, 1966
5/4 Federation Tea Booklets, 1906, 1910
5/5 Miscellaneous Publications, 1913/14, 1916
5/6 Convention Speech, 1911/12
5/7 Newspaper Clippings, 1963, 1964, 1966
5/8 Obituaries - Clubs Members

5/9 Resolutions, 1914, 1924
 Sakakawea Statue

5/10 Statue notes and post card, 1906

5/11 Writings, 1905

5/12 Newspaper Clippings, 1906 - 1911

 Scholarship and Loan Funds

5/13 Student Assistance Program, 1961 - 1973

5/14 Newspaper Clippings, 1966

Mss 1560 Scrapbook, 1962 - 1977 (Stored as Mss 1560)