

Woods Hole Historical Collection  
P. O. Box 185  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

**REGISTER**  
Woods Hole Woman's Club  
1914 – 2009 – to date

6 boxes

# **Woods Hole Woman's Club**

## **History**

The Woods Hole Woman's club began in 1914. It was admitted to the Massachusetts State Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1917 and to the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1926.

The club was formed on the evening of February 2, 1914, when 31 women met for this purpose at the home of Mrs. Gilman Drew. The inspiration to organize the club was a result of domestic science classes held in the parish house of the Church of the Messiah during the winter of 1913-14. Talking with each other at these classes, the women realized an organized group of women could be of invaluable service to the community.

At that first meeting, the women decided their club should be based upon simple plans so that every member would feel able to take part in its programs and projects. For early club meetings, papers were prepared by members and read at the meetings. Some were on travel while others were on such diverse topics as "Life History of the Cercopia Moth," "Women in Music," "Care of Hair, Hands, and Feet," and "Some Aspects of the War". Over the years, this practice was changed. A Program Committee now plans the monthly meetings asking speakers from community organizations, businesses, or arts organizations to give the presentation.

In keeping with the organizing members' desire to be of service to the community, the club's constitution includes an article which states, "The object of the club shall be to bring its members together for mutual helpfulness and the betterment of the community." Early Club projects which satisfied this desire to be helpful were many. The grounds around the railroad station were beautified. A spring clean-up project took place in co-operation with the selectmen who saw that rubbish collected by members was removed. The club began giving a scholarship to the Woods Hole student receiving the highest average in the graduating class. Through the efforts of these women, the Falmouth Nursing Association was formed, house-to-house mail delivery was established in Woods Hole, and tennis courts were built in the village. During World War I and World War II, members knitted warm clothing, rolled bandages, and packed surgical dressings to be sent overseas. In 1918, the club adopted an Armenian child, paying \$60 a month for several years towards its care and education. During WWII, the club sent gifts, books, and clothing to a family in Occupied Netherlands. Food baskets, clothing, and gifts were distributed at Christmas to one or more needy family in the village. These projects were all accomplished by club members who volunteered to serve on committees which saw to

their completion.

Many of these early projects continue today. The Scholarship Committee raises money for annual scholarships awarded to Falmouth High School graduates from precinct one. The Community Service Committee plants and cares for the post office window boxes, organizes the club's efforts on Woods Hole Clean-up Day, and contributes to the needy through its work with the Head Start program. The Friendship Committee sends cards and flowers to the sick and bereaved, and donates books to the library in honor of deceased members. The Activities Committee plans excursions for members. The current club members share the desire of the founding members to be of service to the community.

## Scope

The Secretary's Record Books (mostly bound or in black and maroon Record books) of the organization are not complete but form a long almost continuous history of the Woods Hole Woman's Club. Beginning in 1914 and going on through the 1990s, they are often interspersed with clippings and correspondence. There are also bound Historian and Treasurer Reports. When records were written in digital file form, the minutes of meetings were no longer written into bound record books but are filed in order in folders.

The *Woods Hole Woman's Club Membership Booklets* form a sizable core of this collection. Dating from 1915 to 2009, these booklets not only document the membership of the club, but also monthly programs, committee members, recipients of club donations and scholarships, and special club events, as well as the club's Constitution and By-laws. The Treasurer's Account Book, June 1972 to June 1986, and a Secretary's Record Book from 1981 to 1991 and another from 1992 to 2000 provide additional information on the workings of the club. Ephemera such as receipts for club donations and purchases, citations and certificates of merit, and newspaper clippings also give insight into the organization. Of interest are two *Woods Hole Guide Books*, one from 1956 the other from 1963. These little booklets were published by the club and are full of information about the village. Another booklet, *Falmouth Nursing Association: 1916 – 1966*, includes an account of the club's role in the formation of the association.

## **Woods Hole Woman's Club**

### **Box 1**

Membership Books which include programs and membership lists:

- 1-1. 1915 – 1919
- 1-2. 1920 – 1924
- 1-3. 1925 - 1929
- 1-4. 1930 – 1934
- 1-5. 1935 – 1939
- 1-6. 1940 – 1944
- 1-7. 1945 – 1949
- 1-8. 1950 – 1954
- 1-9. 1955 – 1959
- 1-10. 1960 – 1964
  - 1961 - 1962 missing
  - 1962 – 1963 missing
  - 1963 – 1964 missing
  - 1964 – 1965 missing
- 1-11. 1965 – 1969
- 1-12. 1970 - 1974

### **Box 2**

Membership Books which include programs and membership lists:

- 2-1. 1975 – 1979
  - 1978 – 1979 missing
  - 1979 – 1980 missing
- 2-2. 1980 – 1984

- 2-3. 1985 – 1989
- 2-4. 1990 – 1994
  - 1990 – 1991 missing
- 2-5. 1995 – 1999
- 2-6. 2000 – 2004
  - 2001 – 2002 missing
  - 2003 – 2004 missing
- 2-7. 2005 - 2009
  
- 2-8. *Woods Hole Guide Book.*
  - a. Booklet: *Woods Hole Guide Book.* Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Woods Hole Woman's Club, 1956. 1 original.
  - b. Booklet: *Woods Hole Guide Book.* Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Woods Hole Woman's Club, 1963. 2 originals.
  
- 2-9 Falmouth Nursing Association.
  - a. Booklet: *Falmouth Nursing Association: 1916 – 1966, Falmouth, Massachusetts.* An account of the first fifty years of service to the community. 1 original.

### **Box 3**

- 3-1. Treasurer's Account Book: income and expenses for June 1972 to June 1986. 1 bound volume.
  
- 3-2. Secretary's Record Book: annual meeting, board meeting, and monthly meeting minutes. 1981 to 1991. 1 bound volume.
  
- 3-3. Secretary's Record Book: Board meeting minutes and treasurer's reports. January 1992 to April 2000. 1 bound volume.
  
- 3-4 Folder: Secretary's Minutes 1996-1998
  
- 3-5. Annual Reports.
  - a. Community Service Committee 1953-1954. 1 handwritten ink original.
  - b. Treasurer's Report 1954-1955. "Total Receipts / Total Expenditures." 1 typed original.
  - c. Annual Treasurer's Report 1955-1956. "Total Expenditures." 1 typed original.
  - d. Treasurer's Report October 1956 – May 1957. "Paid Out." 1 handwritten original.
  - e. Treasurer's Report October 1956 – May 1957. "Paid Out." 1 typed original with original envelope.

- 3-6. Citations and Certificates of Merit.
- a. Citation for Leadership in Improving Community Life by the Community Improvement Program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and The Sears Roebuck Foundation. 1962 – 1964. 1 original.
  - b. Citation for Leadership in Improving Community Life by the Community Improvement Program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and The Sears Roebuck Foundation. 1964 – 1966. 1 original.
  - c. Certificate of Merit for outstanding service to the Woods Hole School. June 1972. 1 original.
- 3-7. Annual Scholarship Tea.
- a. Announcement of Annual Scholarship Tea. n.d. (1980s?) 1 handwritten ink original (3 pages).
- 3-8. Ephemera.
- a. Membership Cards of Mrs. Milton Howes: 1938-1939, 1939-1940, 1940-1941, 1941-1942, 1942-1943. 5 originals.
  - b. Receipt for donation to honor roll for Falmouth service men. n.d. 1 handwritten pencil original.
  - c. Receipt for donation to the Barnstable County Sanatorium. March 30, 1943. 1 typed original.
  - d. Receipt for donation to the Falmouth Nursing Association, Inc. April 12, 1943. 1 handwritten ink original.
  - e. Note accepting the resignation of Mrs. Milton Howes. November 2, 1943. 1 handwritten ink original with envelope.
  - f. Receipt from Woods Hole Market. April 14, 1942. 1 handwritten pencil original.
  - g. Receipt from the Woods Hole Bakery. December 9, 1954. 1 carbon copy.
  - h. Receipt from Harbor Side Fish Market. March 10, 1955. 1 pencil original.
- 3-9. Newspaper Clippings.
- a. Article: "Woman's Club Installs Slate." *Cape Cod Standard Times*. May 7, 1958. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
  - b. Article: "Women Give Book." Newspaper unknown. n.d. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
  - c. Article: "Many Woods Hole Projects Sparked by Woman's Club." *Cape Cod Standard Times*. February 17, 1963. 1 original. 2 photocopies.
  - d. Article: "Helping Head Start." *The Enterprise*. March 28, 1990. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
- 3-10. Notes on the origins of The Woman's Equal Suffrage League, the Woods Hole Woman's Club, and the Falmouth Nursing Association.

- a. Notes on Equal Suffrage League. n.d. 1 handwritten ink/pencil original.
- b. Notes on Woman's Equal Suffrage League, Woods Hole Women's Club, and the Falmouth Nursing Association. n.d. 1 handwritten pencil original.
- c. Brief note on Woods Hole Woman's Club. n.d. 1 typed original.

**Box 4: Sheet Music from the 1930s and 1940s used at Woods Hole Woman's Club Meetings (donated by Lee Kahler)**

**Box 5 (Flat): Bound Secretary and Historian's Reports 1914-1939**

Bound Secretary's Reports, 1914-1916

Bound Historian's Reports, 1914-1940

Album of Secretary's Reports, Treasury Records, Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1920-1926

Woods Hole Woman's Club Minutes and Correspondence, 1916-1919, 1939

(Accession Number 08-14). Ledger Book and Correspondence. *Owned by Martha Hilton, donated by her granddaughter Isabel Penman in 2008. Rescued from Woods Hole Community Hall during the 1938 Hurricane.*

**Box 6 (Flat): Bound Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports 1930-1981**

Bound Secretary's Reports, 1930-1934

Bound Secretary's Reports, 1934-1943

Bound Secretary's Reports, 1943-1955

Bound Treasurer's Reports, 1953-1979

Bound Secretary's Reports, 1955-1965

Bound Secretary's Reports, 1965-1981 with some treasurer's information