

McLean County Museum of History

Central Social Club (Randolph Township) Collection

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Collection Information

Volume of Collection:	One Box
Collection Dates:	1920-1996.
Restrictions:	Some brittle documents. Use photocopies unless authorized by Librarian / Archivist.
Reproduction Rights:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
Location:	Archives
Notes:	For additional information, see: scrapbook SB-045 Contains materials from 1941 to 1993, including newspaper clippings, photographs, funeral programs, and annual programs.

Historical Sketch

The Central Social Club, originally known as the Diamond Grove Club, was a women's club originally established by Mrs. H. H. Waggoner, Mrs. Henry Baker, and one other unknown woman in 1907. In 1922 the club was renamed the Randolph Central Social Club since by that point most of its members lived nearer to Randolph than Diamond Grove. Over time the variety of places club members came from increased as members moved away but remained on the roll call and continued to pay dues. According to a club history written around 1944 by Mrs. May Graves, an officer of the club, the group at that time consisted of members from Bloomington, Heyworth, Downs, and LeRoy.

A book of minutes from the 1920s states that the officer positions in the club consisted of a president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, reporter, and flower committee. However, some later annual programs list an assistant treasurer, reporter, music committee, and book committee as well. The laws included in these same minutes state that the Central Social Club was not to include more than 20 members, but in later years the club sometimes grew to include as many as 25 women. Meetings were held every other week on Thursday afternoons and opened with the members pledging allegiance to the flag and singing two hymns, several pop songs, and two patriotic songs.

The club's function was primarily a social one, and it held Halloween parties, Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas dinners, steak fries, picnics, ice cream socials, wiener roasts, and various other events for its members over the course of its history. However, the club also sought to benefit the community, and to this end they sometimes did sewing work for the Red Cross, held showers for brides and mothers-to-be, and gave flowers to the sick. According to a newspaper article from August 17, 1932, the club during that time "also contributed toward the welfare work of the country, aiding the Salvation Army and Victory hall, as well as helping needy families in its more immediate community," and Mrs. May Graves states in her 1944 history that they also were involved in "buying war bonds [and] donating to the soldier boys." Throughout its history, the Central Social Club gave the women that joined it the opportunity both to form close friendships, as the rhymes and memorials members wrote for one another attest, and also allowed them to become involved in the larger community.

Scope and Content Note

The Central Social Club collection contains newspaper clippings, typed transcripts of newspaper articles, minutes of the club's meetings, histories and poems written by members of the club, greeting cards, photographs, funeral programs, and annual programs. The materials date from 1920 to 1996 and are organized into one box as follows: Folder 1 contains histories and records of the Central Social Club. Folder 2 contains annual club programs. Folder 3 contains newspaper articles on club events. Folder 4 contains group photographs and newspaper articles on club member birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. Folder 5 contains transcriptions of newspaper articles. Folder 6 contains newspaper articles related to a house owned by a club member. Folder 7 contains rhymes written by club members. Folder 8 contains greeting cards. Folder 9

contains obituaries, funeral programs, and tributes to deceased club members. The box also contains a book of minutes covering 1920-1927. See also the Central Social Club scrapbook.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Central Social Club Members' Histories and Records

- 1.1.1 "Randolph Club Plans Reunion: History of Central Social Organization Reviewed on Anniversary," August 17, 1942, newspaper article (*Pantagraph?*).
- 1.1.2 "History of Central Social Club formerly known as The Diamond Grove Club," by Mrs. Sam Graves, 1944, transcribed April, 1963, 2 pgs. typed.
- 1.1.3 History of the Central Social Club by Mrs. Sam Graves, 1944?, 2 pgs. handwritten (typed version in item 1.2).
- 1.1.4 Description of Central Social Club activities by Mrs. Will Smith, September 24, 1960, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.1.5 Description of Central Social Club activities by Verna Jones, July 16, 1992, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.1.6 Club motto by Mrs. May Graves, undated, 1 page typed.
- 1.1.7 Minutes by Carrie Eades and Lina Aickman, August, undated, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.1.8 Attendance records, undated, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.1.9 List of dates Mrs. Will Smith was president, undated, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.1.10 Nine receipts for club materials, 1936-1937.

Folder 2: Annual Club Programs

- 1.2.1 Annual club program, September 1966-August 1967, booklet.
- 1.2.2 Annual club program, October 1973-September 1974, booklet.
- 1.2.3 Annual club program, October 1974-September 1975, booklet.
- 1.2.4 Annual club program, October 1979-September 1980, booklet.
- 1.2.5 Annual club program, November 1986-October 1987, booklet.
- 1.2.6 Annual club program, November 1986-October 1987, booklet (Copy 2).
- 1.2.7 Annual club program, November 1987-October 1988, booklet.
- 1.2.8 Annual club program, November 1987-October 1988, booklet (Copy 2).
- 1.2.9 Annual club program, November 1988-October 1989, booklet.
- 1.2.10 Annual club program, November 1988-October 1989, booklet (Copy 2).
- 1.2.11 Annual club program, November 1989-October 1990, booklet.
- 1.2.12 Annual club program, November 1989-October 1990, booklet (Copy 2).
- 1.2.13 Annual club program, November 1990-October 1991, booklet.
- 1.2.14 Annual club program, November 1991-October 1992, booklet.
- 1.2.15 Annual club program, November 1992-October 1993, booklet.
- 1.2.16 Annual club program, November 1992-October 1993, booklet (Copy 2).
- 1.2.17 Annual club program, November 1994-December 1995, booklet.

Folder 3: Newspaper Articles on Club Events

- 1.3.1 "Central Social Club," August 24, 1925, newspaper article.
- 1.3.2 "Central Social Club Elects," August 2, 1928, newspaper article.
- 1.3.3 "Central Social Club to Hold Annual Picnic," August 25, 1930, newspaper article.
- 1.3.4 "Social Club Plans for Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration," August 17, 1932, newspaper article (includes group photograph).
- 1.3.5 "Social Club Plans for Annual Reunion," August 17, 1932, newspaper article.
- 1.3.6 "Central Social Club of Randolph Celebrates Birthdays of Members," June 21, 1934, newspaper article (includes group photograph).
- 1.3.7 "Social Club Entertains: Birthday Party is Held With Daughters of Members Assisting," June 23, 1934, newspaper article.
- 1.3.8 Newspaper photograph of Mrs. William Smith as the newly elected president of the club, August 1942.
- 1.3.9 "Central Social Club has Meeting," January 16, 1947, newspaper article.
- 1.3.10 "Central Social Club Elects Mrs. Eades," August 11, 1950, newspaper article.
- 1.3.11 "Central Social Club," 1992, newspaper article.
- 1.3.12 "Central Social Club," March 10, 1994, newspaper article.
- 1.3.13 "Central Social Club," April 14, 1994, newspaper article.
- 1.3.14 "Central Social Club," July 14, 1994, newspaper article.
- 1.3.15 "Central Social Club Meeting Today," undated, newspaper article.

Folder 4: Group Photographs and Newspaper Articles on Club Member Birthdays, Weddings, and Anniversaries

- 1.4.1 Group photograph of L. Schroeder, May Graves, Anna Smith, Emma Muller, and Carrie Eades.
- 1.4.2 Group photograph, subjects unidentified.
- 1.4.3 Newspaper opinion article quoting Mrs. Jessie Hale, 1937.
- 1.4.4 "Janice A Meece, P.H. Graves Wed," January 23, 1937, wedding announcement.
- 1.4.5 Newspaper opinion article quoting Mrs. Walter Jordan, July 25, 1937.
- 1.4.6 "Mrs. Sarah Smith of Randolph Observes Her 92nd Anniversary," November 6, 1939, newspaper article.
- 1.4.7 "Evelyn Smith Bride of Pierce Graham," July 5, 1942, wedding announcement.
- 1.4.8 "Graves-Auw Wedding Held," August 11, 1942, wedding announcement.
- 1.4.9 "Randolph Pair to Mark 50th Anniversary," October 1, 1947, newspaper article on the anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Smith.
- 1.4.10 Newspaper announcement of Mr. and Mrs. William C Smith's 50th wedding anniversary.
- 1.4.11 Photocopy of a newspaper article on Mr. and Mrs. William C. Smith's 50th wedding anniversary and a wedding announcement of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Martens, 1947.
- 1.4.12 "Miss Stucker Becomes Bride of Mr. Martens," 1948, wedding announcement.

- 1.4.13 "Mrs. Irene Moneymaker Celebrates 90th Birthday," October 24, 1988, newspaper article.
- 1.4.14 "Twining-Stanley," October 12, 1993, partial wedding announcement.
- 1.4.15 "Harold and Dorothy Finger," undated, 45th anniversary announcement.
- 1.4.16 "Recent Bride is Given Surprise Party, Shower," undated, newspaper article.
- 1.4.17 "Miss Graves Will Marry P.J. Martin," undated, wedding announcement.
- 1.4.18 Newspaper photographs of Miss Betty Graves (February 1940), Mrs. C.H. Hamlow, and Mrs. Paul Graves (August 1942).

Folder 5: Newspaper Transcriptions

- 1.5.1 Transcription of newspaper articles 3.7, 3.2, 3.4, 3.1, 3.3, 1.1, and 3.9, 5 pgs. typed.

Folder 6: Newspaper Articles Related to the Old Pioneer Samuel Stewart Home Owned by Mrs. Nellie Ogden, a Club Member

- 1.6.1 "Pioneer Brick House Periled" by Dick Streckfuss, newspaper article from the *Pantagraph*, June 26, 1966.
- 1.6.2 "Historical Tour," author unknown, newspaper article from *The Heyworth Star*, May 28, 1970.

Folder 7: Rhymes Written by Club Members

- 1.7.1 "Little Rhymes About the Present Members" by Mrs. May Graves, undated, transcribed April, 1963, 2 pgs. typed.
- 1.7.2 Rhymes about members by Mrs. May Graves, undated, 5 pgs. handwritten.
- 1.7.3 "The Randolph Social Club" by Ava Harms, undated, 2 pgs. handwritten.
- 1.7.4 "O is for Ovie..." by Mrs. May Graves, undated, 1 page handwritten.

Folder 8: Greeting Cards

- 1.8.1 Thanksgiving card from Laura Grinten to the Central Social Club, November 4, 1988, includes brief note to Hazel Smith.
- 1.8.2 Season's Greetings card from Elsie Brining to Hazel Smith, December 20, 1988.
- 1.8.3 Thank you card from Laura Grinten to the Central Social Club, May 26, 1989, includes brief note to Hazel Smith.
- 1.8.4 Thanksgiving card from Laura Grinten to the Central Social Club, November 13, 1990.
- 1.8.5 Christmas card from Ann M. Bock to Hazel Smith, December 5, 1990.
- 1.8.6 Christmas card from Ann M. Bock to the Central Social Club, December 8, 1992.
- 1.8.7 Thank you card from La Verne Cole to the Central Social Club, December 15, 1992.
- 1.8.8 Greeting card from Laura Grinten to the Central Social Club, August 7, 1993.

- 1.8.9 Happy Holidays card from Ann M. Bock to the Central Social Club, December 6, 1993.
- 1.8.10 Christmas card from Laura Grinten to the Central Social Club, December 13, 1993.

Folder 9: Obituaries, Funeral Programs, and Tributes to Deceased Club Members

- 1.9.1 Funeral program for Edna May Story, died August 9, 1993.
- 1.9.2 Funeral program for Verna Lucille Adams, died November 8, 1993.
- 1.9.3 Funeral program for Audrey D. Funk, died March 18, 1996.
- 1.9.4 Funeral program for Anna L. Donovan, died June 10, 1996.
- 1.9.5 "In Memory of Mrs. Peterson," author unknown, December 1938, 1 page typed.
- 1.9.6 Untitled memorial to Mrs. William Martin, author unknown, May 1939, 1 page typed.
- 1.9.7 Untitled memorial to Mrs. Lizzie Schroeder, author unknown, January 1952, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.9.8 "An Ode (In memory of Mrs. Harry Wedel...)" by Mrs. May Graves, August 1957, 1 page typed.
- 1.9.9 Untitled memorial to Mrs. Viola Thompson by Mrs. May Graves, June 1959, 1 index card.
- 1.9.10 "In Memory of Anna Hamlow" by Mrs. May Graves, November 1960, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.9.11 "Mae" by Betty Martens in memory of Mrs. May Graves, April 1964, 1 page typed.
- 1.9.12 "Lines for Carrie" by Betty Martens in memory of Carrie Eades, June 1964, 1 page typed.
- 1.9.13 "Carrie Eades" by Anna Smith in memory of Carrie Eades, June 1964, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.9.14 "In Memory of Genevieve Honn" by Verna Jones, May 19, 1988, 1 page handwritten.
- 1.9.15 "Mrs. Arthur Peterson Dies at Hospital," December 9, 1938, obituary.
- 1.9.16 "Mrs. W.C. Martens," May 1939, obituary from the *Pantagraph*.
- 1.9.17 "Charles Dickson Smith," September 1940, obituary.
- 1.9.18 "Mrs. Sarah Smith," March 24, 1941, obituary.
- 1.9.19 "Mrs. Leah Danner," partial obituary from the *Pantagraph*.
- 1.9.20 "Mrs. Anna J. Smith," partial obituary.
- 1.9.21 "Mrs. Anna J. Smith," June 4, 1973, obituary.
- 1.9.22 "Fred W. Gottschalk," 1974, obituary.
- 1.9.23 "'In Memory of Genevieve' Honn" by Verna Jones, May 19, 1988, newspaper article (Published version of item 9.14).
- 1.9.24 "Edna May Story," August 1993, obituary.
- 1.9.25 "Esther D. Langhoff," October 8, 1993, obituary.
- 1.9.26 "Verna L. Adams," November 1993, obituary.
- 1.9.27 "Louise Gardner," January 1995, obituary.

1.9.28 "The Mystic Roll" and "A Prayer," general memorial poems, 1 page typed.

Folder 10: Book of Minutes

Book of Minutes, September 9, 1920-December 29, 1927. Includes lists of members and the rules of the club.