



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Collection 1476

Garden Club of Philadelphia
Records

1900-2003

14 boxes, 16 vols., 7.3 lin. feet

Contact: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215) 732-6200 FAX: (215) 732-2680
<http://www.hsp.org>

Processed by: Joanne Danifo

Processing Completed: June 2005

Sponsor: Processing made possible by a grant from the
National Endowment for the Humanities.

Restrictions: None.

Garden Club of Philadelphia

Records, 1900-2003

14 boxes, 16 vols., 7.3 lin. feet

Collection 1476

Abstract

The Garden Club of Philadelphia was established in 1904 by Mrs. J. Willis Martin and Miss Ernestine Goodman to promote an interest in gardens, their design, and management. The garden club held meetings, conducted horticultural research, attended lectures, and participated in civic endeavors. In 1913, several members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia joined with several women from other local gardening associations to form the larger Garden Club of America. The Garden Club of Philadelphia continued to participate in beautification and conservation projects at places like Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and Glendenning Rock Garden. Each year the ladies of the club organized the Rittenhouse Flower Market, which benefited charities, sold holiday greens, and attended the annual meetings of the Garden Club of America. In 1965, the Garden Club of Philadelphia joined several other local horticulture groups to form the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America, so that all involved could engage in more substantial projects.

The Garden Club of Philadelphia Records date from 1900 to 2003. The records consist of fourteen boxes, sixteen volumes, and oversized materials. The collection is arranged in two series – *Administration* and *Activities*. The majority of this collection consists of meeting minutes, yearbooks, and reports that document the activities and interests of the members. The restoration of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and the Glendenning Rock Garden and the planning of events including the Rittenhouse Flower Market are documented through financial records, photos, and correspondence. There are also many compositions penned by members of the club and several scrapbooks depicting attendees at the annual meetings of the Garden Club of America, at parties hosted by members, at members' gardens, and volunteering at different locations. The collection also has several awards and certificates received by the Garden Club of Philadelphia as a result of their involvement in the Philadelphia Flower Show, which the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society first held in 1829 to showcase the talents of local gardeners. The show, which has been held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center since 1996, continues to promote horticultural endeavors to this day. The club's volunteer activities during World War I and community preservation efforts are also recorded in this collection.

Background note

One day in 1904, Chestnut Hill residents Mrs. J. Willis Martin and Miss Ernestine Goodman realized that they shared an appreciation for gardening and an interest in learning more about it. They discussed their idea for a garden club with their friends, Mrs. Edward Sayres, Mrs. Arthur Meigs, Mrs. Charles L. Borie, Mrs. Lewis Neilson, and Mrs. C. Stuart Patterson and thus, the Garden Club of Philadelphia was born. The first official meeting was held at Mrs. Charles Biddle's home, Andalusia, and the charter was issued in 1908. The ladies stated in the charter that the "object of the Garden Club of Philadelphia is to promote an interest in gardens, their design and management, to cooperate in the protection of wildflowers and native plants and to encourage civic planting." The motto for the club was "Furor Hortensis" and, although a definite translation could never be agreed upon, the ladies loosely translated this phrase to mean "mad about gardening." With Mrs. C. Stuart Patterson as their president, the original twenty members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia began their meetings. They gathered together on a monthly basis at each others' homes and the annual membership dues were one dollar. Meetings served not only as a social setting for the ladies, but they also gave the ladies a chance to share their gardening knowledge and talents. At each meeting the hostess gave her fellow members a tour of her garden, often photographs were taken, members and guests gave horticultural lectures, and the ladies also discussed what civic improvements could be achieved with their gardening skills.

Several years later, members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia decided to expand their interests to a national level with the founding of the Garden Club of America. Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Bayard Henry of the Garden Club of Philadelphia as well as members of the other area garden clubs established this organization to achieve larger civic goals more efficiently. The first meeting of the Garden Club of America took place on May 1, 1913 at Stenton, the Logan family estate in Germantown. The Garden Club of America would become a national organization that would hold meetings each year at different locations across the country, which the Garden Club of Philadelphia attended.

The Garden Club of Philadelphia continued to hold monthly general body meetings and established committees within the club to achieve their goals more efficiently. The committees were concerned with different areas including membership admissions, finances, exhibitions, and horticulture. The admissions committee reviewed nominations of new members and the status of existing members. Ladies were often suggested as new members by existing members and they were then placed on an extensive waiting list – in the 1930s and 1940s the list reached almost two hundred people. It seems that the Garden Club wanted to continue membership as they had in the first years of the club, but they accepted much more than the original twenty women into the group. It appears that membership never exceeded seventy-five women. Often members moved away from the area, which opened spaces for new members. These spots were filled when the current members held elections at meetings and decided upon new members. Newly elected members were then introduced at the general body meetings. The admissions committee would also divide members into two different categories, active or non-active, based on their involvement, and they would also keep track of women that were residents of Philadelphia and those that lived outside of the city.

The finance committee tracked the earnings of the club at different flower sales and they also were concerned with the expenses of the members as they planned different exhibitions at flower shows. The exhibitions and horticulture committees were closely related, in that they were concerned with the planting and execution of displays for different flower shows in which the club participated. The horticulture committee also devoted entire meetings to the research of plant types and members would share plant findings that they came across during their travels abroad. Each committee would hold separate meetings, report their findings at the general body meetings, and then the club kept records of these meetings in minutes.

By 1965, there were ten clubs in the Delaware Valley that belonged to the larger Garden Club of America established in 1913. Mrs. John Hyland Dilks, the president of the Garden Club of Philadelphia at the time, decided to combine these ten groups and, with the aid of Mrs. Francis A. Lewis of The Weeders and Mrs. Philip Dechert of The Planters Garden Club, she established the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America. With the formation of this organization, the ladies were able to collaborate with other local gardening clubs and plan more substantial projects.

While the Garden Club of Philadelphia began as a small social endeavor, its activities and legacies remain today. One of the most significant projects that the ladies of the Garden Club of Philadelphia took part in was the Women's Land Army of America during World War I. The club funded the travel expenses of young European girls and these girls joined American female college students on farms. At a farming community in Newtown Square, these "farmerettes" lived together as the college students taught them techniques that they could take back to the farms in their homelands. Through these farming communities, the ladies sought to combat the labor shortages experienced by much of Europe as men joined the armed forces. The farming skills that these women learned also proved vital for post-war reconstruction efforts in countries like Belgium and France, whose farmlands had seen much destruction.

Over the years, the Garden Club of Philadelphia has participated in many regular events and volunteer activities. The Rittenhouse Square Flower Market was one of the biggest steps the club took toward civic improvement, because the proceeds from the market benefited children's welfare organizations. To this day the market remains an annual spring event. The ladies also lent their gardening skills to historic and nature sites in Fairmount Park, including Mount Pleasant and Glendenning Rock Garden. They maintained the grounds at 18th century sea captain John Macpherson's estate, Mount Pleasant, and in 1981 restored Glendenning Rock Garden, which had fallen into disrepair since the 1940s. The club also had a committee devoted solely to the maintenance of the grounds at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve at Washington Crossing Historic Park. The Garden Club of Philadelphia's civic involvement reached its peak in the 1960s with the "vest-pocket" project. The ladies expressed their concern for the state of American cities and believed that neighborhood beautification was a small step toward improving society as a whole. Ladies would adopt different streets throughout the city and aid the citizens in planting these small "vest-pocket" gardens and also help them clean-up. "Block leaders" were chosen to oversee the day-to-day

maintenance of the neighborhood gardens and flower boxes that had been affixed to the facades of many houses.

The members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia also enjoyed the social aspects of their group and often threw parties to commemorate landmarks in the club's history. The 50th and 75th anniversaries for the club were held at the Gulf Mills Golf Club and the Sunnybrook Golf Club, respectively. The dress was formal and there were often light-hearted gardening demonstrations, such as flower displays involving household items. Also each year, the women held several themed cocktail parties at members' homes, which often highlighted their love of gardening. The anniversary celebrations and cocktail parties were the rare occasions that men were brought into the fold of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. Men did not attend their meetings and served only as spectators at the flower shows, yet the husbands of the members were included in these special, formal parties. They often participated in the gardening demonstrations at these parties and, at one particular party, the ladies held a men's-only flower show for their husbands to showcase their flair for flower arrangements.

What began as a chance for well-to-do women to engage in horticultural endeavors in a social setting had become a driving force for civic involvement and urban beautification by the late twentieth century. With the establishment of the Rittenhouse Square Flower Market, the improvements made to the grounds of Fairmount Park, and the establishment of the Garden Club of America, among many other milestones, the women of the Garden Club of Philadelphia have created a legacy that fosters interest in gardening and demonstrates the changes that can occur through gardening techniques and practices.

Scope & content

The Garden Club of Philadelphia's records span more than 100 years, beginning in 1900 and ending in 2003. The records have few gaps and they document the foundation, organization, and activities of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. The gardens of some of the leading citizens in the Philadelphia area, the Philadelphia Flower Show, the Rittenhouse Flower Market, garden restoration, and civic activities during World War I are just some of the topics detailed in this collection. The meeting minutes, which cover almost the entire history of the club, represent the most substantial part of the collection. The minutes recount the first meeting of the Garden Club of Philadelphia, its civic activities, the talents of its members, club anniversaries, and the lives of upper-class Philadelphia women.

The materials have been divided into two series: *Administration* and *Activities*. The *administration* series represents the most significant portion of the collection, both in size and content. It covers almost a century of the club and contains a lengthy record of the club's meetings and a significant amount of financial and membership information.

The *administration* series, which spans from 1900 to 1999, has been divided into four subseries – yearbooks, minutes and reports, financials, program books, and miscellaneous membership and club information. The information in this series offers

insight into the operations of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. Yearbooks, minutes and reports offer very detailed information regarding the format of the club's meetings, its organization with regards to different sub-committees, and its activities. The financials record the expenditures, projected budgets, and other miscellaneous details. The program books, which span thirty years of the club's meetings and involvement, contain calendars of events for each year. The miscellaneous membership and club information includes member lists, memorials, essays and scrapbooks. The photo albums and scrapbooks are rich in various types of information. The photographs bring to life the meetings, parties, volunteer activities, trips, and formal gatherings of the ladies. Invitations, awards, event programs, newspapers articles, and magazine spreads are all represented in these scrapbooks.

The *Activities* (1913-2003) of the Garden Club of Philadelphia have been divided into six subseries according to organization – Garden Club of America, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Glendenning Rock Garden, Rittenhouse Flower Market, and Women's Land Army & American Field Services. The last subseries, named miscellaneous, includes awards, certificates, and pictures, which document the club's civic engagement. The records for the Garden Club of America contain mostly meeting minutes and the contents of a scrapbook compiled in honor of the 65th annual meeting. The Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and Glendenning Rock Garden subseries document the Garden Club of Philadelphia's maintenance of the grounds of these locations. There is a pictorial history of the restoration of the Glendenning Rock Garden. The Rittenhouse Square Flower Market subseries consists mainly of financial information and the Women's Land Army & American Field Services subseries documents the club's contribution to these specific World War I efforts. The group offered farming advice and techniques for war-torn European nations like France.

Overview of arrangement

Series I	Administration, 1900-1999 a. Yearbooks, minutes & reports, 1904-1996 b. Financials, 1950-1995 c. Program books, 1965-1995 d. Miscellaneous membership & club information, 1900-1999	10 boxes, 16 vol.
Series II	Activities, 1913-2003 a. Garden Club of America, 1971-2000 b. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, 1950-1992 c. Glendenning Rock Garden, 1948-1990 d. Rittenhouse Square Flower Market, 1953-1977 e. Women's Land Army & American Field Service, 1914-1925 f. Miscellaneous, 1932-2003	4 boxes, 4 FF

Series description

Series 1. Administration, 1900-1999 (Boxes 1-10, Vol. 1-16)

a. Yearbooks, minutes, and reports, 1904-1996.

The records in this series offer a wealth of information regarding the operations of the club and also the relationships of its members. In the yearbooks and minutes, which for the most part contain the same information, the ladies recorded the agendas for their meetings, which usually included a recount of the day's weather, the location of the meeting, the poem which was read at the start of the meeting and a lecture often penned by the hostess. Examples of some of the gardens that served as meeting spaces include Stenton, Winterthur, and Mrs. Mercer's garden in Doylestown. After the poem and lecture readings, the ladies discussed different orders of business, such as flower shows, upcoming lectures, membership nominations, and invitations received by the club to appear at other garden clubs' events.

The minutes for each year chronicle not only the general body meetings, but also the meetings of the different committees that comprise the Garden Club of Philadelphia. The minutes of the horticulture, treasury and conservation committees chronicle the specific efforts of these groups and their contribution to the larger club. The decision made at these committee meetings resulted in committee reports, which are the other type of document included in this subseries. There were several other committees that issued reports, including the Christmas Greens, Horticultural, Staging, and Exhibitions committees. These groups documented the results of their monthly meetings in one-page reports, which were then discussed at the larger general meetings.

The yearbooks, minutes, and reports have been placed into the same series because they contain related records that cannot be separated. Specifically, the difference between the yearbooks and minutes becomes less apparent as the years progress. They both chronicle the running of the meetings, but the yearbooks, which were maintained in the club in binders, often held other miscellaneous documents and ephemera. The minutes, which were also often filed in smaller binders, contained primarily accounts of the meetings. It seems that the club began to formalize their record-taking throughout the years and decided to keep the minutes separate from the other ephemera.

b. Financials, 1950-1995.

The financial information of the Garden Club of Philadelphia consists of treasury and budget reports, annual financial reports, and papers regarding the tax-exempt status of the club from the 1980s. A copy of the original charter for the Garden Club of Philadelphia accompanies the tax papers.

c. Program books, 1965-1995

The program books were printed during the latter years of the club and span thirty years. They served as a calendar of events for each year and the front of the program book always includes the current executive board of the club and the members of each separate committee. The back of the program books have an alphabetical listing of the club's members. The events listed in the program books are the meetings, exhibitions, and the annual flower show and they also include the locations of these events.

Interspersed with the program books are three rule books that look similar to the program books. The rule books contain the club's statement of purpose, the role of the officers in the organization, the guidelines of one's membership, and the cost of dues. This collection includes rule books from 1969, 1985, and 1991.

d. Miscellaneous membership & club information, 1900-1999.

The papers in this subseries provide information about club members and their interests, with many of the papers produced by members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. One type of record included here are the member lists and rules and also the members' memorials. These papers chronicle the numerous members, the people that have served as officers and people that have served on committees. These lists also include the club's by-laws, rules, and meeting information. And the members' memorials also offer a peek into the personal lives and personalities of these women. The memorials, which honored such women as Ellen Stuart Patterson and Dorothy Falcon Platt, take the form of newspaper clippings and articles profiling the members. But also included among the memorials are accounts written by fellow members, who offered anecdotes and musings about their departed friends.

There is also a set of folders that contain press clippings, magazine articles, and pictures profiling the club, its members, and their work. One of the articles depicts a member in her garden and there is an accompanying interview, in which she gives gardening tips. There are also several papers written by long-time member Polly Newbold that trace the history of the club. These compositions are supplemented by a volume entitled *The History of the Garden Club of America, 1913-1938*, which recounts the meetings of the Garden Club of America in that given time period. It had been placed with the other members' writings because the foreword of the volume was penned by Ernestine Goodman, one of the founding members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. Another member, Dorothy S. Keith, created calendars for members that gave daily gardening tips for the entire year. The two calendars in this collection are named *A Date with the Garden* and *A Date with Container Growing Indoors and Out*.

Besides the history papers written by the club members, there is also a series of horticultural essays written between 1905 and 1936. The table of contents for these essays is in box 100 folder 13 and provides the names of the essays as well as the authors. Horticultural societies, figures like famous horticulturist John Bartram, and different types of flowers represent only a few of the topics covered in the writings. The packet of papers titled "horticultural committee" represents a compilation of

essays written by members of the horticultural committee of the Garden Club of Philadelphia with such varying titles as “Summer and Autumn Flowering Bulbs” and “Experiments with Annuals.”

The six photo albums (vol. 6-13) and five scrapbooks (vol. 7-8, 14-16) in this series chronicle the meetings, cocktail parties, flower shows, and volunteer activities through pictures, programs, invitations and newspaper clippings. The Book of Gardens of the Garden Club of Philadelphia and the Garden Club photo album date from 1904 to 1940 and contain pictures of gardens belonging to affluent families in the Philadelphia area, including those of Mrs. Walter Lippincott, Mrs. Thomas Reath, and Mrs. Jay Cooke who were all members of the club. Under each picture, there is a caption that gives the name of the garden, its location, and the name of its owner. With gardens in Radnor, Chestnut Hill, and Overbrook, these volumes offer a glimpse into the gardens of some of the wealthiest Philadelphians of the early twentieth century. While people rarely appear in the photographs from the Book Gardens, there a few that depict Mrs. Charles Biddle and Mrs. Coxe in gardens. The Garden Club of Philadelphia photo album (vol. 9) has pictures at the end of the volume that show meetings, the ladies’ trip to Virginia, and flower sales.

Another photo album is devoted entirely to a meeting that was held at the home of Mrs. H. Gates Lloyd on November 2, 1939 (vol. 10). The meeting (“Please Wear a Home Made Hat”) features photos of members wearing hats fashioned from various objects and plants including scissors, parsley, funnels, and gloves. This volume demonstrates the social aspect of the ladies’ monthly meetings. Likewise, the next album contains pictures taken at a show staged by the members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia at the home of Mrs. Edward Starr. Mrs. Starr, a member, directed the show called *Time Staggers On*, which was meant to offer an “authentic record of the history” of the club. The roles in the play were filled by members of the club and the work told the history of the Garden Club of Philadelphia from 1904 to 1948, touching on the founding of the Garden Club of America in 1913, the “farmerettes” who volunteered during World War I, and the club’s trip to Washington in the 1930s. In both of these albums, captions have been provided for the photographs.

There are two photograph albums that record the celebrations of the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. In the front of both volumes, the invitation for the event has been included. For the former celebration, the members dined at the Gulph Mills Golf Club in 1954. The 75th anniversary took place at the Sunnybrook Golf Club on April 27, 1979. At these formal occasions, the ladies included their husbands and each photograph has a caption identifying the people pictured.

Members of the Garden Club of Philadelphia also compiled pictures, newspaper clippings, ribbons, poems, and other miscellaneous items into scrapbooks. This subseries contains five scrapbooks dating from 1904 to 1994. Volume 14 offers much insight into the earliest years of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. The title given to the volume, “Odds and Ends,” aptly describes its contents. There are many photographs depicting the founding members of the club and their gardens. There

are a series of pictures from a luncheon at Mrs. Joseph P. Sims' home, articles showcasing the club's involvement in the Rittenhouse Square Flower Market, the Philadelphia Flower Show, and their preparation of Christmas greens for sale. A few letters and several event programs are also included in this scrapbook. A note in the front indicates that this volume had been misplaced and later discovered in a "filing cabinet in 1964."

The scrapbooks also offer a little more detail than the photo albums alone. A great deal of information can be drawn from these scrapbooks, including the formation of the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America. Through press clippings and certificates, it is evident that the ladies of the Garden Club of Philadelphia saw more opportunities and more substantial projects at their fingertips if the joined forces with the nine other Philadelphia gardening organizations. A certificate from the Philadelphia Flower Show shows that the Garden Club of Philadelphia collaborated with other groups for an entry. The scrapbook from 1937-1976 also contains articles and pictures concerning the "vest-pocket" gardens that the ladies were working on throughout the inner city. There are pictures of the ladies with the "block leaders" digging and planting on Ogden Street as well as other locations.

Series 2. Activities, 1913-2003 (Boxes 11-14)

a. Garden Club of America, 1971-2000.

The Garden Club of America was established by members of some of the leading garden clubs at Stenton in Philadelphia in 1913. The Garden Club of Philadelphia was a member of the larger Garden Club of America and was represented in zone V of the national club. This subseries includes minutes from the zone V meetings and reports similar to those of the Garden Club of Philadelphia (see 1.a.).

There was also a scrapbook binder for the 65th annual meeting in April 1978, which was most likely compiled by Mrs. Charles Forbes. The scrapbook contains memorabilia from the annual meeting that took place in Birmingham, Alabama. Forbes assembled delegate lists, itineraries, and pictures of local garden tours, conference menus, souvenirs, worksheets, and many other papers to make this scrapbook. These folders are rich in horticultural information and plant care tips. The contents of the scrapbook occupy box 11 folders 9-12.

b. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve was founded by Mrs. Henry C. Parry, then the Chairman of the Bucks County Federation of Women's Clubs, and Mr. W. Wilson Heinitsh, a consultant for Washington Crossing Historic Park employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters for the purpose of preserving plants that were native to Pennsylvania. In 1934, the preserve was established on 100 acres just north of Washington Crossing. The preserve grew as a bridge, visitors' center, and log cabin were constructed in the next three decades. The preserve is now under the control of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and is recognized by the American Association of Museums.

The Garden Club of Philadelphia formed a committee to oversee the maintenance of the grounds of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. This subseries consists of meeting minutes, reports, pamphlets, and newsletters chronicling the activities of the committee and the preserve. The minutes have been typed and were meant for the people that attended the various meetings, while the newsletters served to keep members and donors informed of the happenings at the preserve. There are also newspaper clippings, maps of the area, plant information, and field trip notes. One folder contains pictures of the various plants that bloomed in the spring and the fall at the preserve.

c. Glendenning Rock Garden, 1942-1990.

The Glendenning Rock Garden is located on Kelly Drive and is part of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. The Garden Club of Philadelphia aided in the restoration of the garden in the early 1980s. The papers in this subseries pertain to these restoration efforts and consist of financial information and pictures. The pictures document the conditions of the garden in the 1940s and then in later years when it fell into disrepair. Pictures of volunteers working in the garden chronicle the ladies' work to restore the garden in the 1980s.

There are also various financial papers and memoranda regarding the planning of the restoration project. These papers, written before the start of the project, assess the needs of the garden, describe the phases of the project, and detail different costs. A letter from the Fairmount Park Commission authorizing the commencement of the restoration can be found in this subseries as well.

d. Rittenhouse Square Flower Market, 1953-1977.

Each spring, the Garden Club of Philadelphia participated in the Rittenhouse Flower Market, which officially began in 1914. The ladies donated their times and talents to this event every year to help raise money to benefit organizations such as children's health and welfare societies. And much like the projects at Bowman's Hill and Glendenning Rock Garden, the Market served to beautify the existing landscape.

Beginning in 1953, these papers in this subseries pertain to the planning and financials of the annual Rittenhouse Square Flower Market. There are floor plans, budget proposals, volunteer lists, and miscellaneous correspondence, which document the Garden Club's involvement in the market.

e. Women's Land Army & American Field Service, 1914-1925.

During World War I, the Women's Land Army was organized in countries England and the United States to combat the labor shortage problem that occurred as many farmers left their land to join the armed forces. Young working class women and college students were trained to perform basic farming duties such as tending crops, harvesting crops, and milking cows.

The Garden Club of Philadelphia supported this cause and the ladies trained women at Newtown Square in Pennsylvania. Their agricultural training was specifically

directed toward young European women, who would return to their war-torn homelands and, armed with new farming techniques, aid in reconstruction efforts in countries such as France and Belgium. The club sponsored these European girls, who traveled to America and worked in groups of ten lead by one American girl, usually a college student from Barnard or Mount Holyoke College. Upon returning to Europe, the girls “would operate on farms where owners would be unable to plant the usual crops” due to the “lack of men.”

The European girls would be “taught agriculture here [United States] for a year or two and then return to cultivate & restore the land.” This subseries is comprised of correspondence between club members in the United States and club members who were helping with reconstruction efforts in France. The members overseas discussed the need for supplies, such as blankets, seeds and tools. Besides the reconstruction projects, the women also promoted the planting of gardens on army bases and there are papers about farming techniques and food conservation written specifically for the armed forces.

American Field Service was an organization that provided ambulances to France during World War I. Men often joined the American Field Services and became volunteer combat ambulance drivers in France and Africa. This subseries contains an award given to the Garden Club of Philadelphia by the American Field Service in France for the club’s donation of an ambulance to transport French soldiers.

f. Miscellaneous, 1932-2003.

Most of the items in this subseries are awards that were given to the Garden Club of Philadelphia for their involvement and the contributions they made to various groups. Among these awards are a ribbon from the Near Club Flower Show in 1972, a plaque from the Pennsylvania Nurserymen’s Association for “most effective use of handy plants,” an achievement award from the Garden Club of America, and other miscellaneous awards from the annual Flower Show and various societies. There is also a list of the awards that the Garden Club of America granted to the Garden Club of Philadelphia since 1932.

Besides the various awards given to the club, this subseries also has the club’s official resignation in 1984 from the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, an organization of state-wide gardening clubs. They cited that they no longer had enough time to devote to the organization and that they would rather focus their energies on the activities of their own smaller garden club. There is also a group of papers relating to a primula study and experiment that was conducted between 1992 and 1994. The purpose of the study was to become more “knowledgeable and build awareness about this group of plants [Primulaceae family].” The Garden Club of Philadelphia conducted this experiment in association with Lee Raden, a Rock Garden Society member, and Wintherthur, which had a substantial primula collection available for observation. The records related to the study include an experiment log and papers from meetings pertaining to the experiments.

Related materials

Howard W. Lewis and Mabel Potter Lewis Collection, Collection 2077. [This collection also includes information on the Women's Land Army of World War I.]

Bibliography

"Progressive Women in Horticulture: A Driving Force in Philadelphia, 1904-1924."
<http://www.ambler.temple.edu/flowershow/> (accessed July 25, 2005)

Subjects

Gardening – 20th century
Gardens – 20th century
Horticulture – 20th century
Newtown Square (Pa.) – Social life and customs – 20th century
Philadelphia (Pa.) – Social life and customs – 20th century
World War, 1914-1918 – War work
Women – Societies and clubs – 20th century
Women gardeners – Social life and customs
Women gardeners – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia

Biddle, Charles, Mrs., 1864-1950
Borie, Charles L., Mrs.
Dilks, John Hyland, Mrs.
Goodman, Ernestine, 1871-1952
Henry, Bayard, Mrs., 1867-1956
Keith, Dorothy S.
Lloyd, Horatio Gates, Mrs., 1868-1934
Martin, Elizabeth Price, 1865-1932
Meigs, Arthur, Mrs.
Neilson, Lewis, Mrs.
Patterson, Mrs. C. Stuart, 1845-1915
Sayres, Edward, Mrs.
Starr, Edward, Mrs.

American Field Service
Bowman's Hill State Wildflower Preserve (Pa.)
Fairmount Park Commission (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Garden Club of America
Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Garden Club of Philadelphia
Glendenning Rock Garden (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association
The Planters Garden Club (Philadelphia, Pa.)
The Weeders (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Women's Land Army of America

Administrative Information

Restrictions

None.

Acquisition information

Gift of the Garden Club of Philadelphia, 1925; 1965; 1989; 2005.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Garden Club of Philadelphia Records (Collection 1476), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

The Yearbooks and the Scrapbook of 65th annual meeting have been removed from binders and placed in folders in their original order.

Processing made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Box and folder listing

Series 1. Administration a. Yearbooks, minutes & reports

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Yearbook	1904-1905	1	1-13
Yearbook	1906-1907	1	14-26
Yearbook	1908	1	27-32
Yearbook	1909	1-2	33-36, 1-2
Yearbook	1910	2	3-8
Yearbook	1910-1912	2	9-13
Yearbook	1913-1914	2	14-21
Yearbook	1914-1915	2-3	22-25, 1-4
Yearbook	1915-1916	3	5-13
Yearbook	1916-1918	3	14-19
Yearbook	1919-1921	3	20-26
Yearbook	1917-1922	3-4	27-31, 1
Yearbook	1922-1923	4	2-6
Yearbook	1924-1925	4	7-10
Yearbook	1925-1930	4	11-14
Yearbook	1931	4	15-19
Yearbook	1935-1936	4	20-23
Yearbook	1938	4	24-26
Yearbook	1939	4-5	27, 1-2
Yearbook	1940-1942	5	3-7
Yearbook	1943-1953	5	8-12
Yearbook	1944-1945	5	13-14
Yearbook	1947-1951	5	15-18
Yearbook	1954-1957	5	19-25
Yearbook	1958-1960	5	26-31
Yearbook	1961-1962	6	1-4
Minutes	1904-1906	Vol. 1	
Minutes	1906-1908	Vol. 2	
Minutes (removed from vol. 2)	1909	6	5
Minutes	1909-1910	Vol. 3	
Item removed from vol. 3	1911	6	6
Minutes	1912-1914	Vol. 4	
Minutes (removed from vol. 4)	1912-1914	6	7
Minutes	1915	6	8
Minutes	1915-1916	6	9

Minutes	1916-1917	6	10
Minutes	1917-1918	6	11
Minutes	1922-1923	6	12
Minutes	1924	6	13
Minutes	1924	6	14
Minutes	1925	6	15
Minutes	1925	6	16
Minutes	1926	6	17
Minutes	1927	6	18
Minutes	1927	6	19
Minutes	1928	6	20
Minutes	1928-1929	6	21
Minutes	1928-1929	6	22
Minutes	1930	6	23
Minutes	1930	6	24
Minutes	1928-1932	6	25
Minutes	1932	6	26
Minutes	1933	6	27
Minutes	1934	6	28
Application Waiting Lists & Annual Admissions Committee Reports	1933-1969	7	1
Minutes	1935-1936	7	2
Minutes	1936-1937	7	3
Minutes & reports	1937-1938	7	4
Minutes	1951-1953	7	5
Minutes	1952-1953	7	6
Minutes	1953-1954	7	7
Minutes	January-June 1963	7	8
Minutes	September-November 1963	7	9
Minutes	1963	7	10
50 th Anniversary of Garden Club of America, miscellaneous letters & minutes	1963	7	11
Miscellaneous correspondence & notes	1963	7	12
Minutes	January-December 1964	7	13
Committee reports	1964	7	14
60 th Anniversary of Garden Club of Philadelphia & miscellaneous incoming correspondence	1963-1964	7	15

Minutes	January-June 1965	7	16
Minutes	June-December 1965	7	17
Minutes & reports	May 1965-May 1966	7	18
Minutes	May 1966	7	19
Minutes	February-October 1966	7	20
Minutes & miscellaneous papers	October 1966-January 1967	7	21
Minutes	February-September 1967	7	22
Minutes	September-December 1967	7	23
Minutes & miscellaneous papers	1968	7	24
Minutes & miscellaneous papers	1968	7	25
Minutes	January-December 1968	7	26
Minutes & miscellaneous papers	February-December 1969	7	27
Minutes & miscellaneous papers	February-December 1970	7	28
Minutes & miscellaneous papers	January-December 1971	7	29
Minutes	January-December 1972	7	30
Minutes	January-December 1973	7	31
Minutes	January-May 1974	7	32
Minutes	June-September 1974	7	33
Minutes	October 1974-May 1975	8	1
Minutes	January-December 1975	8	2
Minutes & miscellaneous paper	January 1976-May 1977	8	3
Minutes (committee meetings & reports)	May-December 1976	8	4
Minutes	1977	8	5
Minutes & committee reports	1978	8	6
Committee reports	1979	8	7
Committee reports	1980	8	8
Committee reports	1981	8	9
Committee reports	1980-1986	8	10
Committee reports	1987-1988	8	11

Committee reports	1989-1990	8	12
Committee reports	1991-1993	8	13
Committee reports	1994-1996, n.d.	8	14
Minutes	June 1988-January 1990	8	15
Minutes	February 1990-April 1991	8	16
Minutes	May 1991-May 1992	8	17
Minutes	September 1992-June 1993	8	18
Minutes & miscellaneous reports	July 1992-June 1994	8	19
Minutes	September 1994-November 1995	8	20
Annual Report of the President of the Garden Club of Philadelphia	1975-1983	8	21
Annual Report of the President of the Garden Club of Philadelphia	1984-1995	8	22
Executive committee minutes & reports	1984-1994	8	23
Executive committee minutes & reports	1986-1990	8	24
Executive committee minutes & reports	1983-1986	8	25

Series 1. Administration b. Financials

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Treasury & Budget Reports	1950-1955	8	26
Treasury & Budget Reports	1956-1961	8	27
Treasury & Budget Reports	1962-1965	8	28
Treasury & Budget Reports	1965-1967	8	29
Treasury & Budget Reports	1968-1970	8	30
Treasury & Budget Reports	1972-1980	8	31
Treasury & Budget Reports	1980-1985	8	32
Treasury & Budget Reports	1985-1987	8	33
Treasury & Budget Reports	1987-1995	8	34
Annual financial reports	1964-1969	9	1
Annual financial reports	1969-1980	9	2
Annual financial reports	1981-1987	9	3

Tax exempt status papers	February 1984-August 1985	9	4
Tax exempt status papers	August 1985-March 1992	9	5
Form 1023 for Tax Exempt Status		9	6

Series 1. Administration c. Program books

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Program books	1965-1969	9	7
Program books & rule book	1969-1972	9	8
Program books	1972-1976	9	9
Program books	1976-1979	9	10
Program books	1979-1981	9	11
Program books	1981-1983	9	12
Program books	1983-1985	9	13
Rule books	1985 & 1991	9	14
Program books	1985-1988	9	15
Program books	1988-1991	9	16
Program books	1991-1995	9	17

Series 1. Administration d. Miscellaneous membership and club information

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Charter	1908	9	18
Member lists & rules	1904-1910	9	19
Member lists & rules	1911-1918	9	20
Member lists & rules	1919-1925	9	21
Member lists & rules	1926-1930	9	22
Member lists & rules	1931-1936	9	23
Members' gardens	c. 1929	9	24
Members' gardens	c. 1929	9	25
Members' gardens	c. 1929	9	26
Members' gardens & geographical key	c. 1929	9	27
Members' memorials (B-F)	1982-1999	9	28
Members' memorials (G-O)	1932-1992	9	29
Members' memorials (P-S)	1971-1989	10	1
Members' memorials (T-Z)	1978-1994	10	2

Ellen Stuart Patterson, memorial	1915	10	3
Dorothy Falcon Platt, memorial by Tobias Wagner	1972	10	4
Newspaper clippings	1949-1999	10	5
Magazine articles	1936-1999	10	6
Commissioned arrangements by the Garden Club of Philadelphia, pictures	1998, n.d.	10	7
Histories & miscellaneous compositions of Polly Newbold	1978-1997	10	8
History of the Garden Club of America, 1913-1938	1938	Vol. 5	
Notes pertaining to the history of the Garden Club of Philadelphia	1964-1978	10	9
A Date with the Garden by Dorothy S. Keith	1955	10	10
A Date with Container Growing Indoors and Out by Dorothy S. Keith	n.d.	10	11
Shirley S. Daniel, Ann L. Crammond, Russell J. Seibert, & Sarah Ann Reath to Nadine Hoffman	June-August 1979	10	12
Horticultural essays	1910-1936	10	13
Horticultural essays	1906-1910	10	14
Horticultural essays	1907-1912	10	15
Horticultural essays	1909-1911	10	16
Horticultural essays	1908	10	17
Horticultural essays	1905, n.d.	10	18
Horticultural essays	1905	10	19
Horticultural essays	1905-1910	10	20
Horticultural essays	1907-1908, n.d.	10	21
Horticultural essays	1900-1933	10	22
Horticultural essays	1907-1931	10	23
Horticultural Committee	1934-1935	10	24-29
The Book of Gardens of the Garden Club of Philadelphia, 1910	1904-1918	Vol. 6	
Garden Club photo album	1925-1940	Vol. 9	
Mrs. H. Gates Lloyd's meeting & hat party	November 2, 1939	Vol. 10	

Time Stagers On: An Authentic Record of the Garden Club of Philadelphia, 1904-1948	September 28, 1948	Vol. 11	
Garden Club of Philadelphia 50 th anniversary dinner	1954	Vol. 12	
Garden Club of Philadelphia 75 th anniversary dinner	April 27, 1979	Vol. 13	
Items removed from vol. 13	1979	9	30
Odds and Ends Scrapbook	1904-1949	Vol. 14	
Scrapbook	1937-1976	Vol. 15	
Scrapbook	1958-1965	Vol. 16	
Scrapbook	1977-1989	Vol. 7	
Items removed from vol. 7	June 1979	10	31
Scrapbook	1990-1994	Vol. 8	
Items removed from vol. 8	1992	10	32

Series 2. Activities a. Garden Club of America

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Zone V miscellaneous lists, correspondence, & minutes	1975-2000	11	1
Zone V meeting minutes & reports	1988-1990	11	2
Zone V meeting minutes & reports	1979-1987	11	3
Zone V questionnaires & miscellaneous papers	1989-1997	11	4
Zone V presidents' reports	1979-1990	11	5
Annual Reports (PCGCA)	1985-1989	11	6
Annual meeting, Council of Presidents' panel	May 3, 1971	11	7
Reports & miscellaneous papers	1978-1986	11	8
Scrapbook of 65 th annual meeting	April 1978	11	9-12
Regarding the foundation & history of the GCA	1913-1995	11	13
Annual meeting, pictures	1993	11	14

Series 2. Activities b. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Press clippings	1950-1961	11	15
Pamphlets & newsletters	1959-1962	11	16
Meeting minutes & reports	January 1978-October 1979	11	17
Miscellaneous papers	1960-1982	11	18
Wayside Trail map & miscellaneous papers	1959-1977	11	19
Annual reports & sponsors' meeting	1957-1975	11	20
Field trips & plant records	1957-1968	11	21
Annual reports & newsletters	1960-1967	11	22
Work record	1982-1986	11	23
Annual reports & newsletters	1986-1988	11	24
Annual reports & newsletters	1988-1992	11	25
Plant information & maps	n.d.	11	26
Newsletters & miscellaneous papers	1979-1989	11	27
Plant & trail guides	1958-1979	11	28
Bowman's Hill, ephemera	1966-1990	11	29
Board of Gardeners, reports & general information	1969-1981	11	30
Pictures	Spring-October 1990	11	31
Map (Washington Crossing)	n.d.		FF 1

Series 2. Activities c. Glendenning Rock Garden

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Restoration papers	1982	11	32
Restoration financials	1982-1990	11	33
Pictures	1948-1983	11	34
Restoration pictures	1982-1983	11	35
Map	1942		FF 2

Series 2. Activities d. Rittenhouse Flower Market

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Records	1953-1959	12	1

Records	1961-1967	12	2
Records	1969-1971	12	3
Records	1973-1977	12	4

Series 2. Activities e. Women's Land Army & American Field Services

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Certificate of Service from the American Field Services in France	1914-1918		FF 3
Miscellaneous papers & correspondence	June 1917-March 1918	12	5
Miscellaneous papers & correspondence	October 1918-1925, n.d.	12	6

Series 2. Activities f. Miscellaneous

Title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Resignation from the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania	1984-1985	12	7
Ribbon from Near Club Flower Show	1972	13	
Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association plaque given to Garden Club of Philadelphia	n.d.	14	
Awards, Garden Club of America → Garden Club of Philadelphia	1932-2000	11	8
Achievement Award given by the Garden Club of America	1992-1993	12	9
Flower Show Awards	1966-2003	12	10
Flower Show pictures	1992	12	11
Awards from miscellaneous societies	1953-1991	12	12
Award presented by Bowman's Hill State Wild Flower Committee	October 23, 1974	12	13
Neighborhood Garden Association Distinguished Service Award	n.d.		FF 4
Primula study, meetings	1992-1994	12	14

Primula study, experiment log	1992-1993	12	15
-------------------------------	-----------	----	----