



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRISIS

The Fortnightly Club Collection MS-009

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on May 18, 2021.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

copper@mtu.edu

URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biography | 3 |
| Collection Scope and Content Summary | 4 |
| Arrangement | 5 |
| Administrative Information | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings | 6 |
| Collection Inventory | 6 |
| Series I, Club History | 6 |
| Series II, Minutes | 6 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections |
| Title: | The Fortnightly Club Collection |
| ID: | MS-009 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1937-2017 |
| Physical Description: | 1.35 Cubic Feet 3 manuscript boxes (legal size) |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Mixed Materials [box]: | 1-3 |
| Abstract: | Collection, 1937-2017, of the Fortnightly Club in Hancock, Michigan, originally a religious study group for young married couples that has evolved into an education and social group. Includes a history of the club, constitutions, and minutes. |

Preferred Citation

MS-009, The Fortnightly Club Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biography

The Fortnightly Club was organized in Hancock in November 1937 and is still in existence. It seems to bear no obvious relation to a Home Fortnightly Club founded in Calumet in 1902 (see constitution and annual programs at F574.C2 H6). The Fortnightly Club was organized in 1937 by Rev. Fred Clark of the First Congregation Church of Hancock and its early decades of activity reflect its design as a religious study group for young married couples, particularly those with young children. Early versions of the Club's constitution describe a group "organized to encourage sociability among the young married people of the district, to improve our knowledge in certain fields of learning and to demonstrate the practical aspect of religious experience." These early constitutions also include articles specifying a group of no more than 30 "young married people", two-thirds of whom must have membership in the church, and

allowing for the expulsion of members living "contrary to the standards of Christian living generally accepted by society." In these early years Rev. Clark presented talks on religious subjects alternating with other speakers and social meetings. Meetings were held every two weeks (hence the name) at the church or in members' homes, and announcements were printed in the church bulletin as well as the Saturday church update in the Houghton Daily Mining Gazette.

By the late 1950's, the group's religious orientation began to fade. The revised constitution of 1959 ended public announcements of Club meetings and changed the membership articles deleting the words "young" and requiring only half of the active members to be "affiliated" with the Congregational Church. By 1972, "Christian living" language was dropped, meetings were no longer held at the church and future meetings were announced by the Club president or the host couple. A document prepared for the Club's fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1987 indicated that many members were faculty of Michigan Technological University, though lawyers, doctors and Isle Royale rangers had been members in an effort to keep the group from becoming a MTU faculty organization.

With the constitution of 1990, meetings were set at the first and third Wednesday of each month and active membership drawn "primarily" from married couples. Total Club membership has never exceeded thirty members. The educational part of the Club's meetings have included, talks, lectures, panel discussions, book reviews, slides, movies, and discussions concerning directed study. The Club has continued its traditional Christmas parties, white elephant gift exchanges, and annual spring picnics, though other activities, like Twelfth Night dinners and Guest Meetings, have fallen into disuse.

The Fortnightly Club Collection charts the evolution of one Copper Country social organization through a number of incarnations. Throughout its history, however, the Club's stated goals to encourage sociability and improve knowledge have continued. The collection provides insight to Club members, to local community activities, and to their perspectives on the contemporary issues of the times.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Records of the Fortnightly Club in Hancock, Michigan consisting of a history of the club, constitutions, and minutes with attachments.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

MS-009 has been arranged into two series, which have each been further arranged chronologically. The two series consist of:

1. Club History, 1937-1962; 1988-1997
2. Minutes, 1937-2017

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

copper@mtu.edu

URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

An initial gift consisting of minutes with attachments, anniversary reports and letters, club history, constitution, and constitution revisions was donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Robert Brown on August 27, 1991. The attachments for the minutes generally consisted of correspondence, members lists, invoices, and election ballots. Nine additional gifts were made to the collection by members of the Fortnightly Club in the period of 1993 through 2013.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Rosters
- Histories
- Bylaws (Administrative records)
- Minutes
- Hancock (Mich.)
- Education -- Societies, etc.

Collection Inventory

Series I, Club History, 1937-1962; 1988-1997, (1937-1990)

Language of the Material: English.

Scope and Contents

This series contains club histories, reports and letters from anniversary celebrations, the Fortnightly Club Constitution, and revisions to the constitution.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| History of the Fortnightly Club, 1937-1958; 1994 | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Fortnightly Club Constitutions, 1943-1990 | box 1 | folder 2 |
| 25th Anniversary, November 7, 1962 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| 50th Anniversary, May 4, 1988 | box 1 | folder 4 |
| 60th Anniversary, November 19, 1997 | box 1 | folder 5 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II, Minutes, 1937-2017

Language of the Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Documents found in this series include meeting minutes with attachments consisting of correspondence, invoices, election ballots, and membership lists.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|-------------------|-----------|--|
|-------------------|-----------|--|

The Fortnightly Club Collection MS-009

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| Minutes, 1937-1940 | box 1 | folder 6 |
| Minutes, 1940-1945 | box 1 | folder 7 |
| Minutes, 1946-1951 | box 1 | folder 8 |
| Minutes, 1951-1955 | box 1 | folder 9 |
| Minutes, 1955-1958 | box 1 | folder 10 |
| Minutes, 1958-1961 | box 2 | folder 1 |
| Minutes, 1961-1962 | box 2 | folder 2 |
| Minutes, 1962-1963 | box 2 | folder 3 |
| Minutes, 1963-1964 | box 2 | folder 4 |
| Minutes, 1964-1965 | box 2 | folder 5 |
| Minutes, 1965-1966 | box 2 | folder 6 |
| Minutes, 1966-1967 | box 2 | folder 7 |
| Minutes, 1967-1970 | box 2 | folder 8 |
| Minutes, 1970-1975 | box 2 | folder 9 |
| Minutes, 1975-1978 | box 2 | folder 10 |
| Minutes, 1978-1979 | box 2 | folder 11 |
| Minutes, 1980-1981 | box 2 | folder 12 |
| Minutes, 1981-1982 | box 2 | folder 13 |
| Minutes, 1982-1983 | box 2 | folder 14 |
| Minutes, 1983-1984 | box 2 | folder 15 |
| Minutes, 1984-1985 | box 2 | folder 16 |
| Minutes, 1985-1986 | box 2 | folder 17 |
| Minutes, 1986-1987 | box 2 | folder 18 |
| Minutes, 1987-1988 | box 2 | folder 19 |
| Minutes, 1988-1989 | box 2 | folder 20 |
| Minutes, 1989-1990 | box 2 | folder 21 |
| Minutes, 1990-1991 | box 2 | folder 22 |
| Minutes, 1991-1992 | box 3 | folder 1 |
| Minutes, 1992-1993 | box 3 | folder 2 |
| Minutes, 1993-1994 | box 3 | folder 3 |
| Minutes, 1994-1995 | box 3 | folder 4 |
| Minutes, 1995-1996 | box 3 | folder 5 |

The Fortnightly Club Collection MS-009

| | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
| Minutes, 1996-1997 | box 3 | folder 6 |
| Minutes, 1997-1998 | box 3 | folder 7 |
| Minutes, 1998-1999 | box 3 | folder 8 |
| Minutes, 1999-2000 | box 3 | folder 9 |
| Minutes, 2000-2001 | box 3 | folder 10 |
| Minutes, 2001-2002 | box 3 | folder 11 |
| Minutes, 2002-2003 | box 3 | folder 12 |
| Minutes, 2003-2004 | box 3 | folder 13 |
| Minutes, 2004-2005 | box 3 | folder 14 |
| Minutes and member list, 4/02/2008- 2/03/2010 | box 3 | folder 15 |
| Minutes, 2008-2012 | box 3 | folder 16 |
| Minutes, 2011-2017 | box 3 | folder 17-20 |
| Minutes and rosters, 2013-2014 | box 3 | folder 21 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)