

Inventory of the

Senachwine Club
Putnam County, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 187

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Edmund Horsch, Jr., secretary of the Senachwine Club, donated the Club's records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on June 19, 1987. An addendum was added on March 23, 1993.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3.75
Number of containers: 4 + 3 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 187

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Senachwine Club records document the club's hunting activities from 1886-1986. In addition to information on the Club, these records contain material from the Illinois Department of Conservation and from Ducks Unlimited, a private organization. Researchers should note that there are two gaps in the records, files from 1941-1945 and 1963-1971 are missing. The collection is organized into two series: Administrative Files and Correspondence Files.

Administrative Files include by-laws, minutes, financial records, and property records. The minutes contain the Club's charter, early by-laws, membership lists and reports from committees and the treasurer. Financial records also contain some treasurer's reports and financial statements, accounting records and the Secretary/Treasurer's records. Property records deal with the Club's grounds and include maps, tax receipts, plus deeds, leases and mortgages. Finally, this series contains kill sheets and daily registers which record the number of birds shot each day of the season.

Correspondence Files contain incoming and outgoing letters kept by the Club's secretary. All aspects of the organizations' business and activities are covered in these files. Correspondence concerning membership applications, club hunting rules, by-laws revisions, leases, contracts, legislation and regulation is included in this series. Of special interest are the files of correspondence with the several caretakers employed by the Club. Various improvements to the clubhouse and grounds can be traced through their letters.

For more information on hunting and conservation in Illinois, researchers should consult the Princeton Game and Fish Club Records (RC 113).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Senachwine Club was incorporated in 1886 as the Hennepin Shooting Club. Its original purpose was to provide protection and to preserve wild game birds while providing recreation for its members. To accomplish that purpose the Club bought and leased land on the East and West Hennepin Marshes near the Illinois River and Lake Senachwine in Putnam County. The Club took its present name sometime between 1914 and 1919.

Originally, the Club's by-laws limited the size of the membership to twenty-five. Later this was increased to thirty, all of whom but fourteen had to be residents of Cook County. Dues rose from \$50 to \$125 in 1937 to \$1500 in 1986. The money collected went for upkeep of the clubhouse, salaries of the caretaker and grounds superintendent, land leases, and improvements to the grounds. Improvements included planting corn and millet to attract ducks, building duck blinds, and creating dikes and drainage ditches to control water levels.

The Senachwine Club maintained memberships in the Illinois Sportsmans Association and Ducks Unlimited. Publications from the latter organization can be found in the Club's correspondence files. The Club also corresponded with the Illinois Department of Conservation, buying licenses and reporting its seasonal kills. In 1946 the Club joined the Department and the Natural History Survey in opposing the U.S. War Department Engineers Flood Control Program for Illinois. It was their belief that the program would prove detrimental to wildlife and their marsh homes.

Today, the Senachwine Club continues to protect and preserve wild game birds while maintaining hunting facilities for its members.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Game Preserves
Hennepin Shooting Club
Hunting and Fishing Clubs
Putnam County
Senachwine Club
Wildlife Conservation

COLLECTION INVENTORY

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| | 2-4 | Minutes and Reports: Senachwine Club, 1945-1952, 1960, 1973-1986 |
| | 5 | Greenwing Club Dispute, 1960-1964 |
| | 6 | Board of Director's Meeting, May 1979 (2 cassettes) |
| | | Financial Records: |
| | 7 | Hennepin Shooting Club-Bank Books, 1897-1910 |
| | 8-10 | Secretary/Treasurer's Record, 1910-1914, 1930-1970 |
| | 11 | Financial Statements, 1930-1962, 1972-1978 |
| | 12 | Accounting-Disbursements, 1967-1978 |
| | 13 | Accounting-Cash Balance, Receipts and Expenses, 1967-1978 |
| | 14 | Membership Lists, 1937, 1948-1953, 1974-1978 |
| | | Property Records: |
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| | 16-18 | Taxes, 1920-1940, 1946-1962, 1972-1980 |
| | | Deeds, Leases, Mortgages: |
| | 19 | Deeds, Leases, Mortgages, 1853, 1909-1916, 1950, 1951, 1972-1976 |
| | 20 | R.M. Barnes Loan, 1917-1923 |
| | 21 | Jenkins Farm, 1903, 1913-1918, 1935 |
| | 22 | Putnam Gun Club, 1902-1911, 1917-1918 |
| | 23 | Sparling Property, 1902-1934 |
| | 24 | Law and Buster Thompson, 1929-1939, 1947 |
| | 25 | Lewis and Wilcoxson, 1902, 1923-1928 |
| | 26 | Martin, 1945-1949 |
| | 27 | Glen Thompson, Duke, and Rambo, 1918-1928 |
| | 28-32 | Kill Sheets and Daily Registers, 1934-1939, 1941-1963, 1966, 1972-1983 |
| Oversize | 1 volume | Minutes and Reports: Hennepin Shooting Club, 1886-1914 |
| | 2 volumes | Minutes and Reports: Senachwine Club, 1919-1944 |

Series II. Correspondence Files

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | 1-7 8-12 13-15 16-18 19-24 25 26 27 28 29-30 | Members, 1926-1941, 1946-1962, 1971-1978 Business, 1931-1940, 1946-1962, 1973-1979 Deeds, Leases, Mortgages, 1930-1940, 1946-1962, 1973-1978 Building and Grounds, 1931-1940, 1944, 1946-1962, 1972-1979 Frank O. Eckard, 1929-1940, 1946-1948 Frank P. Eckard, 1946-1962 Jim Hageman, 1955-1962, 1973-1974 Glen Rieker, 1975-1982 Milo DeVore, 1931-1936 Mrs. Marvin Johnson, 1936-1940, 1946-1958 |
| 3 | 1 2-6 7 1 VHS tape | Mrs. Mildred Cofoid, 1957-1958, 1960-1962 Legislation and Regulation, 1931-1940, 1946-1962, 1971-1978 Minutes and Notices, 1960-1966 Senachwine Club, 1925 |

ADDENDUM

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 4 | 1-2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | Correspondence, 1918-1957, 1975 Financial Statements, (1903-1955) Leases, 1941-1956 Membership Lists, 1930, 1932, 1948, 1958 Hunting Register, 1930-1936 Minutes, Committee Reports, 1907-1935 Newspaper Clippings, 1934, n.d. Receipts, 1930-1957 Photographs: Clubhouse, Houseboat, Property (Marsh), Launch and Crew, Day's Kill, (1922-1945), n.d. (16) |
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