

Inventory of the

**Halcyon Club of Polo**  
Polo, Illinois

Records

In the  
Regional History Center

**RC 232**

## INTRODUCTION

The Halcyon Club of Polo records were donated to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on June 12, 1998 by the members of the club and Dr. Patricia Stuff of Bonduel, Wisconsin. Her mother, Marjorie, a long time member of the Halcyon club, had collected these materials for many years. Additional records were donated at a later date.

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: 1.5  
Number of containers: 4  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 232

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Halcyon Club of Polo records consists of two series: Halcyon Club of Polo and the Literary Clubs of Polo. The first series, the Halcyon Club of Polo, includes meeting minutes from October 19, 1910 through May 20, 1992 and programs/annual reports from 1898 to 1914 and 1986 through 1996. Programs between these dates can be found in the Literary Club of Polo volumes. Also contained in the series are correspondence, newspaper clippings, program committee lists, and speeches. Of special interest is a sachet party favor given to each member at the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. The second series consists of programs/yearbooks for the Literary Clubs of Polo and include not only the Halcyon Club but the Kensington Club, Study Club, Utopian Circle Club, Ideal Club, Would-Be Tourist Club, Shakespeare-Art Club, Wednesday Club, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Halcyon Club of Polo was organized in 1886 so the members could read and study the subjects they knew nothing about. Mrs. Mary Perkins, the founder of the group, persuaded the members to take the four-year Chautauqua course of study, which was lead by the club president Mrs. Clendenning. Miss Kate Phelps was the club promoter at whose house the first meeting was held. In 1890 the ten members of the Halcyon Club completed the four-year Chautauqua course. Six of the members, Mrs. Mary Perkins, Miss Kate Phelps, Mrs. Chase, Miss Ida Mason, Mrs. Emma Wales, and Julia Lawrence, went to Chautauqua, New York to receive their diplomas.

The members of the Halcyon Club met once a week, later meeting two times a month, and presently once a month. Meetings consisted of lectures by members on a variety of topics such as travel, history, art, literature, book reviews, and current events.

In 1921 the club members voted to disband the Halcyon Club so greater strength might be given to the newly formed Woman's Club. The money left in the treasury was split between a gift for Mrs. Florence Rowland, the last president, and a memorial to the Halcyon Club to be placed in the Library. The Women's Club decided not to have study departments that year so the members of the Halcyon Club decided to form a club called the Study Club. The first meeting of the Study Club was held on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1921 with current events as the topic of discussion. The

Halcyon club was reestablished on October 18, 1922 with a revised constitution adopted by members on that date.

For the Club's centennial in 1986 a walnut plaque was donated to Polo's historical Aplington House. The plaque had names of all the charter members and the names of the present centennial members and associates.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Halcyon Club of Polo  
Literary Clubs  
Polo  
Women's Organizations

### COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Halcyon Club of Polo		
1	1	Constitution, 1991, n.d.
	2-8	Minutebooks, October, 19, 1910-November 19, 1975
2a	1-3	Minutebooks, December 3, 1975-May 20, 1992*
	4-5	Programs/Annual Calendars, 1898-1914, 1986-1996
	6	Club's Involvement in Polo Centennial, 1957
	7	Correspondence, 1945, 1986, n.d.
	8	Newspaper Clippings, (1904-1992)
	9	Program Committee Membership Lists and History, 1958-1965
	10	Speeches, Flag Day, 1904; 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1911; 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1926
	11	*Minutebook, October 7, 1992-April 7, 1999
	12	Club Officers, 1976-1997
	13	Programs / Yearbooks, 1986-1997
	14	100 Year Anniversary Letter by Carol Coffman, 1986
	15	Club Donations and Thank You Letters. December 6, 1985 - January 27, 1997.
	16	Mildred Hoak and Betty Coffman Funeral Cards. April 16, 1994 and May 21, 1996
	17	Photographs: Flo Hammer's Birthday, 1965 (4); Neva Baker's Birthday, 1985 (4); 100 Year Anniversary, 1986 (6); Misc. Group Pictures (3)
	18	Photographs: Strawberry Patch Trip, 1980(4); Dillon House, Sterling, Il, 1982 (3); On The Rose trip, 1994 (1)
	19	Photographs: Club Luncheon, 1976 (4); Gertrude Wilson's House, 1981 (4); Christmas Dinner, 1980 (6)
	20	Photographs: Unidentified, n.d. (5 sheets); Negatives - Unidentified, n.d. (2 sheets)

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2b		90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sachet Party Favor, 1976
Series II. Literary Clubs of Polo		
3	1-14	Programs/Yearbooks, 1914-1986