

Inventory of the

**Stillman Valley Woman's Club**  
Stillman Valley, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 242**

## INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Robert (Elsie) Sand, Stillman Valley, Illinois, donated the Stillman Valley Woman's Club Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on October 6, 1999.

Property rights in the collection are held by 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: 6.25  
Number of containers: 10 + 3 volumes  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 242

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Stillman Valley Woman's Club Records document the establishment and history of a local woman's social organization whose aim was to "promote intellectual growth, cooperation in community service and the joy of companionship." A nearly complete set of minute books (1899 -1970, 1973-1988) details the business and social activities of each club meeting. The collection contains yearly program booklets beginning with 1912, as well as program booklets for all the area women's clubs which supplement the minute books. These program booklets contain lists of officers, program titles and members responsible for each meeting. Nine scrapbooks contain photographs, newspaper clippings, program booklets and related materials documenting meetings, activities and other social functions sponsored by this organization. Researchers should note the brief club history, as well as a number of constitutions and by-laws which begin with the founding of the organization as the "Wednesday Study Club" and continue through its evolution into the Stillman Valley Woman's Club. Related materials include correspondence, annual reports, financial records, membership lists, and 35mm slides and negatives from the mid-1980's. In addition, this collection includes literature from the Federated Women's Clubs of Ogle County, the Thirteenth Congressional District Women's Clubs, the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs which provides information on the statewide activities of woman's clubs in Illinois.

The Regional History Center holds several other collections related to Illinois women's organizations such as Jolly Neighbors Club, Prophetstown (RC 112), Friends in Council, Princeton (RC 129), Genoa Women's Club (RC 192) and Afton Township Women's Club (RC 229).

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Stillman Valley Woman's Club was organized on November 1, 1899 by a small group of women meeting at the home of Mrs. Ellen Patrick, and was known as the "Wednesday

Study Club.” Its purpose was “mental improvement by study and discussion” and the group met at the homes of members. The first ten meetings were held weekly, but thereafter were held on alternate Wednesdays, excluding three months during the summer. With the start of the 1938-1939 term meetings were held monthly. The meetings were devoted to the study of such subjects as literature, history, folklore, government, arts and crafts, music, public health, and education. Most meetings included a musical portion where members either sang or listened to selections on the phonograph.

In 1903 the group affiliated with the State Federation of Women’s Clubs. In 1910 they joined the Thirteenth District, and in 1925, they affiliated with Ogle County. It was not until 1945 that the club joined the General Federation. In 1919 it was voted to change the name of the organization to the Stillman Valley Woman’s Club.

During its 88 years of existence the Woman’s Club worked on many worthwhile projects. World War I saw members supporting the Red Cross and the Council of National Defense, and during World War II the group sponsored clothing drives. Other work included supporting a French orphan for two years, furnishing hot lunches for school children, putting on art exhibits, purchasing children’s recreational equipment for the park, helping to finance a supervisor for children’s summer activities, and planting trees. During the 1980's activities included sponsoring blood pressure checks for the community, having charge of the Flower Show at the annual Fall Festival, sponsoring the “Home of the Valley” contest, art and music scholarships, and lending support to “Winning Wheels,” a facility for disabled adults in Prophetstown. In addition this group has contributed to many local and national organizations.

The project the Stillman Valley Woman’s Club is most proud of is the library it started in 1915 and maintained until they turned it over to the village in 1924. The building originally was the home of Miss Julia E. Hull who willed it for a library. It also served as a meeting place for the Woman’s Club for many years. During the 1980's membership declined and the group formally disbanded in May 1988.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Libraries  
 Photographs  
 Songbooks  
 Stillman Valley  
 Stillman Valley Woman’s Club  
 Wednesday Study Club  
 Women’s Organizations

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Stillman Valley Woman's Club History, 1964, 1980
	2	Roll Call of Members, 1899 - September 1934
	3	Guidelines for Conducting Meetings, Women's Club Officers, n.d.
	4	Installation Ceremony Services, 1964, 1981, 1984, n.d.
	5	Legal Documents - State of Illinois, 1987
	6	Constitution & By-Laws, 1965, 1978
	7-12	Constitution & By-Laws, Meeting Minutes, 1899-1923
2	1-3	Constitution & By-Laws, Meeting Minutes, 1923-1943
	4	Meeting Minutes and Related Material, 1943-1953
	5	Constitution & By-Laws, Meeting Minutes and Related Material, 1953-1958
3	1-3	Meeting Minutes and Related Material, 1958-May 25, 1988
	4	Certificates, (1945-1978)
	5	Clippings, 1957-1958
4	1	Clippings, 1929-1930
	2-3	Correspondence & Clippings, (1934-1965), 1970
	4	Pressbook (Clippings), 1985-1986
	5	Correspondence, 1982-1988
	6	Monthly Reports, 1955-1957
	7	"Home of the Valley," 1983-1988
	8	"Indian Affairs," n.d.
	9	Woman of the Year Award, 1983-1984, 1986
	10	Flower Show, Record Book and Clippings, 1955-1956
	11-14	GFWC/IFWC, Nomination Forms for Stillman Valley, 1985-1988
	15	General Federation of Women's Clubs [GFWC], Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs [IFWC], 13 <sup>th</sup> District of Women's Clubs, Department Awards, 1984, 1988
16	Stillman Valley Woman's Club, flower Fund Books, 1937-1983	
5	1	Treasurer's Instructions, 1970's
	2	Treasurer's Book, 1924-1935
	3-4	Treasurer's Record Books, 1983-1988

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
5	5	Wednesday Study Club, Booklets, 1912-1919	
	6-7	Stillman Valley Woman's Club, Booklets, 1919-1932, (1973-1988)	
	8-10	Federated Women's Clubs of Ogle County, Booklets, 1932-1960	
6	1-2	Federated Women's Clubs of Ogle County, Booklets, 1960-1969, 1971-1973	
	3	Songbook, ca. 1946	
	4	Miscellaneous Booklets	
7	1	Scrapbook Materials, 1981-1987	
	6 volumes	Stillman Valley woman's Club, Scrapbooks, 1947-1952, 1963-1964, 1980-1983	
Oversize	3 volumes	1984-1987	
8	1	Unidentified Photographs, ca. August 1935	
		Slides: Woman's Club Activities, 1983-1987, (357)	
		Negatives; 35 mm strips Woman's Club Activities, 1980's, (79)	
9	1	Related Artifacts, envelopes, ribbon, n.d. Artifacts Silver Cup, "Stillman Valley Women's Club" Pin, "Illinois Federation Women's Clubs, Club President" Pin, "Illinois Federation Women's Clubs, Past President" Pin, "G.F.W.C., Unity in Diversity"	
		Thirteenth Congressional District, Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs	
10	1	Booklets, (1924-1988)	
	2	By-Laws, 1914	
	3	Annual Meeting Attendance Roll Book, 1901-1926	
		Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs	
	4	<u>The History of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs 1894-1954</u>	
	5	Miscellaneous Papers, 1984-1985, n.d.	
	6	Directories, 1924-1927	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
10	7-10	Year Books, 1940/1941, 1951/1952, 1974-1977, 1978/1979, 1982-1984	
	11	GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs; Year Books, 1984-1987	
	12	General Federation of Women's Clubs: Constitution & By-Laws, 1951-1953	
	13	Conservation Booklet, ca. 1976	