

# Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club Records, 1914-2012: A Guide

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club

**Title:** Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club Records, 1914-2012

**Inclusive Dates:** 1914-2012

**Abstract:** The collection documents the activities of the Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club, a ladies' club in Stephenville, Texas devoted to the improvement of its members by providing education and community service opportunities.

**Identification:** AR53

**Extent:** 6 cubic feet (15 boxes, 9 volumes)

**Shelf location:** 9:H:5-6, 9:I:3-6, 6:A:3

**Language(s):** Collection is in English.

**Repository:** Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas

## Organizational History

The Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club began as a ladies' literary club on February 21, 1901. Mrs. Gertrude Straughan Bassel, the daughter of Judge S.J. Straughan, hosted a meeting at her father's house to organize the club. Three members of the Granbury Wednesday Club traveled from Granbury to Stephenville by train to assist with organizing the club.

Charter club members who attended the organizational meeting were Gertrude Straughan Bassell (1879-1949), Louella Styles Vincent (1853-1924), Eloise Nicholson Parker (1869-1951), Eula Laverty Perry (1876-1969), Aydil Nash Styles (1868-?), Fannie Jean Evans Styles (1831-1906), Louise Linn Bramlette (1862-1950), Julie Adams Moores (1849-1939), Sallie Pickens Orr (?-1935), Willie Akers George (1870-1953), Alice McGaughey Blakeney (1873-1960), and Sallie McCleskey Mothershead (1866-1959). Many of them later served as president of the club.

In the early years, the club went by several different names such as Stephenville Ladies' Club, The Twentieth Century Club, and The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club. By 1947 the names were causing problems with financial and property title documents. Using the name on the document of incorporation, a court decision was made that the proper name of the club was the Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club.

In addition to literary studies, the members of the club carried out several projects over the years. They were instrumental in starting the Stephenville Public Library, the Stephenville museum, the local Chamber of Commerce, a Girl Scout troop, and a Junior Twentieth Century Club (later known as the Stephenville Study Club). They also donated to various charities, provided scholarship funds, and carried out many civic improvement and beautification projects.

The club members began the public library by collecting book donations. In 1903 the first public library was housed in a room in the First National Bank. The women volunteered to keep the library open one day a week. Later the club opened a library in an existing building. When they were able to acquire land and raise enough funds, the club built a library building.

The women started the museum in a similar way by asking for donations of historical artifacts.

The topics of programs for the twice monthly meetings included conservation, education, fine arts, home life, international affairs, public affairs, Texas heritage, Americanism, and friendship. Additional programs observed Library Day and Federation Day. The meetings took the form of teas, presentations, lectures, musical performances, skits, art shows, slide presentations, luncheons, and dinners. The business part of the meetings followed parliamentary procedures.

The club remains active in 2021 with over 60 members. It continues to develop projects that encourage community service. Due to its fund-raising endeavors for charitable purposes, it is designated a Section 502(3)C organization.

### **Sources:**

Owens, Autum. "Sallie Mothershead: Widow, mother who pioneered local establishments," *Runnels County Register*.  
<https://www.runnelscountyregister.com/news/20170311/sallie-mothershead-widow-mother-who-pioneered-local-establishments>  
Accessed March 17, 2021.

"GFWC 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club, Stephenville, TX," *Facebook*, accessed March 17, 2021,  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111210968914928/>.

### **Scope and Contents**

The collection documents the activities of the Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club, a ladies' club in Stephenville, Texas devoted to the improvement of its members by providing education and community service opportunities. Some of significant topics represented in the records are the establishment of the Stephenville Public Library, civic improvements, community beautification, and raising funds for scholarships. The collection also documents the topics covered at programs of the club meetings, which included conservation, education, fine arts, home life, international affairs, public affairs, Texas heritage, Americanism, and friendship. Materials are largely textual, comprising correspondence, report forms, scorecards, yearbooks, program handouts, budgets, awards lists and certificates, meeting minutes, directories, news articles, and scrapbooks. Items in the scrapbooks are news clippings, yearbooks, press releases, event programs, certificates, letters, photographs, brochures, ephemera, award ribbons, and district and state convention programs. Most of the scrapbooks were in poor condition. The archival staff decided to disassemble the scrapbooks and store them in archival boxes for preservation purposes. Nine scrapbooks are in good condition and were not disassembled. Loose items found in those scrapbooks were foldered and placed where they were found.

### **Organization**

The Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club Records, 1914-2012 are organized in four series:

- Series I. Files
- Series II. Yearbooks
- Series III. Financial records
- Series IV. Scrapbooks

### **Rights and Access**

#### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

### **Physical Access Restrictions**

None.

### **Technical Access Restrictions**

None.

### **Publication Rights**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

### **Reproduction Note**

Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of the original held by Archives/Special Collections, Dick Smith Library, Tarleton State University), when available. Only archives staff may photocopy collection documents.

### **Index Terms**

#### **Persons**

Bassel, Gertrude Straughan, 1879-1949  
Blakeney, Alice McGaughey, 1873-1960  
Bramlette, Louise Linn, 1862-1950  
George, Willie Akers, 1870-1953  
Moores, Julie Adams, 1849-1939  
Mothershead, Sallie McCleskey, 1866-1959  
Orr, Sallie Pickens, ?-1935  
Parker, Eloise Nicholson, 1969-1951  
Perry, Eula Laverty, 1876-1969  
Styles, Aydil Nash, 1868-?  
Styles, Fannie Jean Evans, 1831-1906  
Vincent, Louella Styles, 1879-1949

#### **Organizations**

Stephenville Historical House Museum  
Stephenville Ladies Club  
Stephenville Public Library  
Stephenville Study Club  
Tarleton Campus Club  
Texas Federation of Women's Clubs  
The Twentieth Century Club  
The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club

#### **Subjects**

Americanism  
Conservation  
Education

Fine arts  
Friendship  
Home life  
International affairs  
Public affairs  
Texas heritage

**Places**

Stephenville (Tex.)

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

Donated to the Dick Smith Library at Tarleton State University by Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club on April 21, 2017.

### **Preferred Citation**

Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club Records, 1914-2012, AR53, Box [no.], Folder [no.], Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

### **Processing Information**

Finding aid prepared by Phyllis Kinnison, 2021.

### **Related Collections**

The Tarleton Campus Club Press Books, 1955-1983, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Clyde Richard King Papers, 1887-2004, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

The Tarleton Ninety Club Scrapbook, 1948-1951, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

### **Note to the Researcher**

The collection is processed, but advance notice is required with time allowed to retrieve them before conducting research. There may be occasions when staffing or weather conditions prevent retrieval of the records. Some materials originally housed in binders have been placed in folders and boxes. For more information, contact Librarian/Archivist Phyllis Kinnison at [pkinnison@tarleton.edu](mailto:pkinnison@tarleton.edu).

## Container List

<b>Stack Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder(s)</b>	<b>Series Title and Folder Contents (with dates)</b>
<b>9:I:3</b>	<b>1</b>	1	Report 1931-1932
		2	Guest books, 1932, undated
		3	Report 1932-1933
		4	Report 1933-1934
		5	Report [1934]-1935
		6	Report [1936]-1937
		7	Report [1937]-1938
		8	Report [1938]-1939
		9	Bulletin: Annual District and State Convention, 1939
		10	Texas Federation News, 1941
		11	Report [1940]-1941
		12	Report, undated
		13	Report 1942-1943
		14	Report 1944-1945
		15	Texas Federation of Women's Clubs certificate, 1947
		16	Report [1946]-1947
		17	Report 1947-1949
		18	Report on the Better Community Program, 1949
		19	Twentieth Century Club certificates, 1952, 1954
		20	Report 1957-1958
		21	Report 1958-1959
		22	Twentieth Century Club certificates, 1952-1962
		23	Report 1959-1960
		24	Report and handwritten notes 1959-1960
		25	Twentieth Century Club awards and certificates, 1968
		26	Library Report 1967-1968
		27	Twentieth Century Club certificates, 1970-1973
		28	Report 1971-1972
		29	Report 1974-1976
		30	Correspondence, 1962-1963, 1967-1974
		31	Report 1975
		32	Pioneer District Annual Board Meeting and Convention, 1976
		33	Report 1976-1978
		34	Report 1977
		35	Report 1978-1979
		36	Supplemental report 1978-1979
		37	Report 1979-1980
		38	Report 1980-1981
<b>9:I:3</b>	<b>2</b>	1	Report 1981-1982
		2	Report 1982
		3	Scorecard 1982
		4	Awards and certificates, 1983-1984
		5	Miscellaneous, 1978-1980
		6	Report 1985-1986
		7	Report 1986-1987

		8	Report 1987
		9	Report 1988
<b>9:I:4</b>	3	1	Report 1995-1996
		2	Treasurer's reports, budgets, and awards lists, 1993-1996
		3	Writing contest, 1997-1998, 2000-2001
		4	Report 1997-1998
		5	Meeting minutes, awards lists, treasurer's report, 1995-1998
		6	Report and awards list, 1997-1998
		7	Report 1998-1999
		8	Report 1998-2000
		9	Report 1998-2000
		10	City of Stephenville Proclamation, 2000
		11	Report 2000-2001
		12	Celebrating 100 years of excellence in Federation, 2000-2002
		13	Report 2000-2002
		14	Report 2001-2002
		15	Certificates 2000-2002
		16	Program materials: Folk Knowledge; Hazardous Materials, 1981, 2002
		17	Twentieth Century Club website, 2002-2004
		18	Reports 2002-2010
		19	Correspondence, 1939, 1949, 1962, 1965, 1970-1972, 1979, 1983, 1985, 2010, undated
		20	Miscellaneous, 1927, 1979, undated
<b>9:I:4</b>	4	1	Yearbook, constitution, and by-laws, 1908-1909, undated
		2	Yearbook, 1914-1915
		3	Yearbook, 1925-1926
		4	Yearbook, 1927-1928
		5	Yearbook, 1928-1929
		6	Yearbook of Women's Clubhouses, 1929
		7	Constitution and By-Laws of Twentieth Century Club, 1929
		8	Yearbook, 1929-1930
		9	Yearbook, 1930-1931
		10	Yearbook, 1931-1932
		11	Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Yearbook, 1934
		12	Yearbook, 1934-1935
		13	Yearbook, 1935-1936
		14	Yearbook, 1936-1937
		15	Yearbook, 1938-1939
		16	Yearbook, 1939-1940
		17	Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Forty-Second Annual Conference, 1943
		18	Yearbook, 1943-1944
<b>9:I:4</b>	5	1	"Don'ts for Presiding Officers and Members," 1944
		2	Yearbook, 1944-1945
		3	"The Twentieth Century Clubwoman: A Handbook for Organizational Leaders," by Sara A. Whitehurst, 1942
		4	Yearbook, 1945-1946
		5	Yearbook, 1949-1950

		6	Yearbook, 1950-1951
		7	Yearbook, 1952-1953
		8	Yearbook, 1954-1955
		9	Yearbook, 1956-1957
		10	Yearbook, 1957-1958
		11	Yearbook, 1963-1964, 1964-1965
		12	<i>Unity and Diversity: The History of the General Federation of Women's Clubs</i> , by Mildred White Wells, 1965
		13	Yearbook, 1968-1969, 1969-1970, 1970-1971, 1971-1972
		14	Yearbook, 1972-1976, 1978-1979
		15	Fourteenth Annual Convention, Pioneer District, Texas of Federation of Women's Clubs, 1974
		16	Fifteenth Annual Convention, Pioneer District, Texas of Federation of Women's Clubs, 1975
<b>9:I:4</b>	6	1	Yearbook, 1980-1986
		2	Yearbook, 1986-1990
		3	Yearbook, 1990-1994
		4	Yearbook, 1993-1996
		5	Yearbook, 1995-1997
<b>9:I:4</b>	7	1	Program: Dedication of the restored John Tarleton Ranch Headquarters, Stephenville Museum Grounds, 1993
		2	Program: Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, 95 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, 1992
		3	Yearbook, 1997-2000
		4	Yearbook, 2000-2003
		5	Programs, 2001-2002
		6	Yearbook, 2003-2007
		7	Directory, 2002-2004
		8	2006-2012
<b>9:I:4</b>	8	1	Programs, 1963, 2008-2012
		2	Award, 2011
		3	Ephemera, undated
		4	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: May-June 2000
		5	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: September-October 2000
		6	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: November-December 2000
		7	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: January-February 2001
		8	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: March-April 2001
		9	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: May-September 2001
		10	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: October-November 2001
		11	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: December 2001 - January 2002
		12	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: February-March 2002
		13	Scrapbook, 2000-2002: April-May 2002
		14	Scrapbook, 2002-2004
		15	Scrapbook, 1983: "Hold a Lantern High," by Alice Neill King (manuscript) (folder 1 of 2)
<b>9:I:4</b>	9	1	Scrapbook, 1983: "Hold a Lantern High," by Alice Neill King (manuscript) (folder 2 of 2)
		2-3	"Dr. King's History of the Stephenville 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Club, 1901-2007"

		4	Letters with recipes and biographies, 1979, 1983, undated
		5	Twentieth Century Club recipe cards, 1988
<b>9:I:5</b>	10		Scrapbooks, 1948-1950
<b>9:I:5</b>	11		Scrapbooks, 1967-1974
<b>9:I:5</b>	12		Scrapbooks, 1974-1983
<b>9:I:5</b>			Brown scrapbook, 1984-1992
<b>9:I:5</b>			White scrapbook, 1996-1998
<b>9:I:6</b>	15		Scrapbooks, 1957, 1964-1967
<b>9:I:6</b>			Brown paper cover scrapbook, 1960-1961
<b>9:I:6</b>			Beige paper cover scrapbook, 1961-1962
<b>9:H:5</b>	13	1	Financial records: Dues roster, 1929-1931
		2	Financial records: Finance book, 1931-1935
		3	Financial records: Ledger – Library accounts, 1932-1955
		4	Financial records: Ledger (includes 1957 building fund), 1940-1977
		5	Financial records: Ledger, Fall 1947-March 1952
		6	Financial records: Ledger, April 1952-March 1984
<b>9:H:5</b>	14	1	Scrapbooks, 1950-1951
		2	Scrapbooks, 1951-1952
		3	Scrapbooks, 1954-1955
<b>9:H:5</b>			Yellow scrapbook, 1956-1957
			Brown scrapbook, 1958-1959
			White scrapbook, 1959-1960
<b>9:H:6</b>			Beige paper cover scrapbook, 1962-1963
			Beige paper cover scrapbook, 1963-1964
<b>6:A:3</b>	Artifacts Box 2		Wooden Press Book cover, 1954-1955