American Association of University Women Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.) records
1972–2002

Abstract: The American Association of University Women Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.) records reflect the organizational structure and detail the social, intellectual, and civic life of this women's group, which was formed to support the AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, and research. The records span the extant dates of the branch, 1972-2002.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 531

Creator: American Association of University Women. Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.)

Title: American Association of University Women Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.) records

Inclusive Dates: 1972–2002

Extent: 1.3 linear feet and 1 oversize box (3 boxes)

Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 531, American Association of University Women Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.) records, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 1: Shelved in SPEC MSS record center cartons; Box 2: Shelved in SPEC MSS shoeboxes; Box 3: Shelved in SPEC MSS manuscript boxes

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/

Source: Gift of the American Association of University Women Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.), 2005.


Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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Historical Note

The Mill Creek Hundred Branch of the American Association of University Women, in existence from 1972-2002, was one of eight branches of AAUW in Delaware. The American Association of University Women was formed in 1921 when the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (founded 1881) merged with the Southern Association of College Women (founded 1903). Membership is open to any woman who holds an associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree from an accredited American college or university or a foreign institution recognized by the International Federation of University Women. This national organization comprises state divisions that are made up of local branches. The first branch in Delaware began in 1923 as part of the Pennsylvania-Delaware Division. The Delaware branches broke with Pennsylvania and formed the Delaware Division on April 11, 1940.

The Mill Creek Hundred Branch formed in 1972, making it the eighth branch in the Delaware Division. Founded by a group of twelve women from the Newark and Wilmington branches, Mill Creek Hundred's membership peaked at over one hundred members. Former member Geraldine Elter described the group's participants as young women who "had young children and stayed home to take care of them." In a 1994 report, Elter further described the distinctive qualities of Mill Creek: "The Wilmington Branch was too big ... The Newark Branch was strongly affiliated with the University of Delaware ... Mill Creek was thought to be just the right combination of ages, interests, children, community involvement, etc." (F44)

The Mill Creek Hundred Branch had several long-term projects and ongoing events including the Book Sale, the Candidate's Forum, and the May Dinner. The annual Book Sale in November usually enjoyed profits of over three thousand dollars, but a shrinking volunteer base ended the event around 1990. In election years, the group sponsored a "Candidate's Forum" which was open to the public and well-attended by public officials. The annual May Dinner at the end of the AAUW year was a time for members to celebrate and present the annual Named Gift Award, a five hundred dollar contribution to the Educational Foundation Program in honor of a member who had shown outstanding service to the branch. In later years it was replaced by the Donor Dinner or Donor Tea.

As with all AAUW branches, Mill Creek Hundred had a variety of study groups including Gourmet Cooking, Bridge, Great Decisions, Gardens, Early Childhood, Books, Public Policy, Needlework, Craft, and the Couples' Discussion Group. The branch members also worked on projects involving battered wives' shelters, teenage pregnancy, scholarships to Goldey Beacom College, local school grants, transportation for cancer patients, and childcare. They were active in the AAUW Delaware Division's Legislative Day and United Nations Day, made displays for Women's History Month, and participated in Newark Community Days.

In its last years of existence, the Mill Creek Hundred Branch suffered from low membership, dropping from over one hundred twenty members to less than fifty in a ten year period. This led to the cancellation of major projects, annual events, and study groups. Some members cited increasing numbers of working women and grown children as reasons for shrinking participation. Others thought that the national AAUW had "become too political" and dues were too high. Geraldine Elter concluded that "AAUW used to provide stimulation that is now offered by other sources." The Mill Creek Branch disbanded in 2002 and members were invited to join either the Wilmington or Newark branches.
Sources:

Elter, Geraldine. "A Look at the Mill Creek Hundred Branch of the American Association of University Women." May 17, 1994. (Box 1, F44)


Additional information derived from the newsletters of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch as found in Series I of this collection.
Scope and Content Note

The American Association of University Women Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.) records reflect the organizational structure and detail the social, intellectual, and civic life of this women's group, which was formed to support the AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, and research. The records span the extant dates of the branch, 1972–2002. The collection (1.3 linear feet) comprises administrative records, correspondence, directories, budgets, account books, bank statements, newsletters, brochures, recipes, histories, reports, awards, photographs, scrapbooks, and ephemera. The collection is arranged in three series: I. Organization and Administration (1972–2002), II. Projects and Events (1980–2002), and III. History and Memorabilia (1972–2002).

Series I. Organization and Administration spans the years 1972–2002 and is divided into four subseries: Administration, Membership, Finances, and Newsletters. Administration contains the bylaws, correspondence, and agendas of the branch. The collection is incomplete, with a limited number of years represented. Membership includes a complete collection of Mill Creek Hundred directories dating from 1972 to 2002 and a list of board members. The Finances subseries consists of budgets, treasurer's reports, tax information, account books, bank statements, and other materials. The final subseries, Newsletters, houses all issues of the Mill Creek Branch newsletter, The Mill Wheel (1973–2001). The Delaware Division newsletter, The First Stater, is only available from 1999 to 2002, but a complete set of these newsletters can be found in the Delaware Division of the American Association of University Women records (MSS 529).

Series II. Projects and Events covers several branch activities from 1980 to 2002. The events include branch dinners, Goldey Beacom Honors Day, the annual Book Sale, the Delaware Division's 60th State Convention, and several anniversary celebrations. The collection contains programs with recipes from dinners the branch held, as well as other favorite recipes of the branch members. In 2002 the branch marked its thirtieth anniversary and dissolution with the "Blaze of Glory" luncheon; papers describing the planning of the event and the invitation are available. Despite the large number of study groups, only the Book Group is represented. Gifts given by the branch to Bear and Kirkwood Highway libraries are also documented here. Additionally, the series houses printed material compiled by the branch, including two brochures (1982 and 1991) detailing the activities and history of the branch in hopes of attracting new members and a "Preventing Teen Pregnancy" booklet from 1991.

Series III. History and Memorabilia, covers the years 1972–2002 and presents the development of the group in a variety of formats. The contents of the series include a certificate for the founding of the branch and a timeline of the history up to 1982. A 1994 report written by Geraldine Elter discusses the declining membership of the Mill Creek Branch; correspondence chronicles the dissolution of the branch in 2002. The series also contains photographs and four scrapbooks from 1972 to 1998 detailing the history of the group in pictures, programs, and newspaper clippings. The first two volumes are the most complete, while the remaining two volumes are more sporadic in their coverage.
Selected Search Terms

Corporate Names

American Association of University Women. Mill Creek Hundred Branch (Del.)
American Association of University Women.
American Association of University Women. Delaware Division.

Topical Terms

Women--Societies and clubs--Delaware--History--20th century--Sources.
Women in education--20th century--Sources.
Women in community organization--Delaware--History--20th century--Sources.
Women college graduates--20th century--Sources.

Geographic Names

Mill Creek Hundred (Del.)--History--20th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Administrative records.
Correspondence.
Directories.
Budgets.
Account books.
Bank statements.
Newsletters.
Brochures.
Recipes.
Histories.
Reports.
Awards.
Photographs.

Scrapbooks.

Ephemera.

Related Materials in this Repository

MSS 529, American Association of University Women Delaware Division records
MSS 530, American Association of University Women Newark Branch (Del.) records
MSS 622, American Association of University Women Wilmington Branch (Del.) records
Arrangement

I. Organization and Administration, 1972–2002
   A. Administration, 1991–2001
   B. Membership, 1972–2002
   C. Finances, 1972–2002
   D. Newsletters, 1973–2002

II. Projects and Events, 1980–2002

III. History and Memorabilia, 1972–2002
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Organization and Administration, 1972-2002

The material in this series documents the organizational development and yearly operation of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch of the American Association of University Women. It is arranged chronologically within each of its four subseries: Administration, Membership, Finances, and Newsletters.


Mill Creek Hundred bylaws, 1991-1993 [Box 1 F1]

Correspondence, 1995-2002 [Box 1 F2]

Meeting agendas and planning guides, 1998-2000 [Box 1 F3]


This subseries is arranged chronologically and details the membership of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch.

Mill Creek Hundred directories, 1972-2002

Lists names, addresses, and phone numbers of branch members.

1972-1980 [Box 1 F4]

1980-1990 [Box 1 F5]

1990-2002 [Box 1 F6]

Membership, undated [Box 1 F7]

Contains a list of board members, a list of members' addresses, and a sheet displaying membership statistics from 1974-2001.

Green card box of old members, undated [Box 2 F8] (SPEC MSS shoeboxes)

Contains alphabetized index cards of "dropped members" of the branch. Each card has the member's name, address, phone number, and degrees, as well as the years of membership.

Gray card box of current members, 2001-2002 [Box 2 F9] (SPEC MSS shoeboxes)

Contains alphabetized index cards of members active as of the dissolution of the branch.

Subseries I.3. Finances, 1972-2002

This subseries is arranged chronologically and contains a detailed record of the finances of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch.
Series I. Subseries I.3.

Branch financial information, 1972-1981 [Box 1 F10]
Includes budgets and treasurer's reports detailing the group's finances.

Details the expenditures and income of the Fellowship Committee, also includes an envelope of deposit slips.

Branch contributions to AAUW Educational Foundation, 1974-2001 [Box 1 F12]

Branch financial information, 1982-2002 [Box 1 F13]
Includes budgets and treasurer's reports detailing the group's finances.

Account passbooks, 1988-2002 [Box 1 F14]

Tax information, 1994-2001 [Box 1 F15]

Branch account statements, 1998-2002 [Box 1 F16]


AAUW finances from floppy disks, 2001 [Box 1 F18]
Two floppy discs containing the 2001 finances, one for Windows and the other for Macintosh.

This subseries contains a complete run of the Mill Creek Branch newsletter, as well as several of the Delaware Division newsletters.

The First Stater, 1999-2002 [Box 1 F19]
The First Stater is a biannual publication of the Delaware Division of the AAUW.

The Mill Wheel, 1973-2001
The Mill Wheel was a monthly publication of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch, detailing the club's activities and plans for each month. It published its final issue in the fall of 2001.

1973-1975 [Box 1 F20]
1975-1979 [Box 1 F21]
1979-1981 [Box 1 F22]
1981-1983 [Box 1 F23]
Series II. Projects and Events, 1980-2002

The material in this series documents the major events and activities of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch of the American Association of University Women, including award ceremonies, dinners, scholarships, fundraisers, and gifts. It is arranged chronologically.

Dinner programs and recipes, 1980-1999 [Box 1 F31]

Mill Creek Hundred brochures, 1982, 1991 [Box 1 F32]
Details the activities and history of the branch with the intention of attracting new members.

Goldey Beacom College Honors Day, 1984-1985 [Box 1 F33]
Information on scholarships awarded by the Mill Creek Hundred Branch

Book Sale, 1988 [Box 1 F34]
Contains planning information and photographs from the 1988 Book Sale.

"Preventing Teen Pregnancy" booklet, 1991 [Box 1 F35]
Two copies of the booklet produced by the Mill Creek Hundred Branch. This booklet is a collection of resources available to residents of New Castle County, Delaware to help prevent teen pregnancy. Also contains a brochure on abortion in Delaware and domestic violence.

Gift to Bear Library, 1996-1999 [Box 1 F36]

Twenty-fifth anniversary, 1998 [Box 1 F37]

60th AAUW Delaware State Convention, 2000 [Box 1 F38]

Sharon Smith, 2001-2002 [Box 1 F39]
Sharon Smith was a devoted member of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch who passed away suddenly on January 4, 2001. She served as branch president in 1974-1975 and again in 1985-1986. The branch donated books to the Kirkwood Highway Library in her memory. This file contains eulogies, announcements, and correspondence relating to her death and the library donation.

Book Group, 2001-2002 [Box 1 F40]
Contains the reading and meeting list for the Mill Creek Book Group.

Thirtieth anniversary, 2002 [Box 1 F41]
The "Blaze of Glory" luncheon celebrated the thirtieth anniversary as well as the dissolution of the branch. This folder contains the invitation and papers related to planning the event.

Series III. History and Memorabilia, 1972-2002
This series includes correspondence, certificates, photographs, and scrapbooks which document the historical development and dissolution of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch of the American Association of University Women.

Founding of Mill Creek Hundred Branch, 1972 [Box 1 F42]
Contains certificate from national AAUW granting recognition of the Mill Creek Hundred Branch. Signed by Anne Campbell, president.

Branch history, 1982 [Box 1 F43]
A timeline of the branch history from 1972 to 1982.

Report on Mill Creek Hundred, 1994 [Box 1 F44]
Two copies of the report written by Geraldine Elter and submitted to Professor R. Worley which discusses the decline in membership of the Mill Creek Branch and possibility of dissolution.

Mill Creek Hundred dissolution, 2001-2002 [Box 1 F45]
Awards and certificates, 1983-1991 [Box 1 F46]
Contains awards from 1983, 1990, and 1991 from the national AAUW, three certificates from 1990 for members who have served on the Delaware Division Board, a blank certificate for the Named Gift Award, and a list honoring all members who have served on the Division Board in honor of its fiftieth anniversary.

Photographs, 2000-2001 [Box 1 F47]
Contains photographs from the 2000 State Convention and the 2001 luncheon for Jo Gibson, a branch officer who moved to Arizona.

Mill Creek Hundred Branch scrapbooks, 1972-1998
The scrapbooks detail the history of the group in pictures, programs, and newspaper clippings from 1972 to 1998. The first two volumes are the most complete, while the remaining two volumes are more sporadic in their coverage.

1972-1985 [Box 3 F48] (SPEC MSS oversize boxes (18 inches))

1985-1991 [Box 3 F49] (SPEC MSS oversize boxes (18 inches))

1991-1994 [Box 1 F50]

1995-1998 [Box 1 F51]