

The Lothrop Club of Beverly (1895-2001)

MSS: # 035

Processed by: Jennifir Huston (December 2020)

Volume: 16 Boxes; 23.085 linear feet

Abstract:

The Lothrop Club of Beverly is a women's club which was founded and chartered in 1895 by Mrs. Benjamin D. Webber (Abbie). The club's mission was to "promote a higher, broader and better culture intellectually and socially¹" for women. It is named for Captain Thomas Lothrop, commander of the "Flower of Essex²" in King Philip's War. The first meeting was held in Mrs. Webber's living room and the first president was Mrs. Edward H. Kilham. The club created a constitution and by-laws with committees and chose the *Genista Tinctoria* (woad-waxen) as the club flower. They provided community outreach in Beverly including fundraising, scholarships, and events. In 1944, former president Mrs. Thomas Bott (Ruth M. Bott) founded the Lothrop Juniors Club which admitted young women aged 18-30. The club yearbook goes to 2001, but it is thought to have disbanded in the late 1990s.

Collection Creator:

The Lothrop Club of Beverly, Beverly, Massachusetts.

Provenance:

The collection was donated by the Lothrop Club of Beverly.

Conservation/Processor's Note: Much of the collection was in fair to good shape with some showing much wear and tear. Many duplicates of yearbooks included with notes throughout. All metal paper clips replaced with plastic. There are some pages and papers where there is evidence of rust where metal paper clips once were. Cancelled checks are paper clipped to the statements so as not to have checks to become mixed within the containing folder. One hardcover book was falling apart. Folders were created to correspond with documents once glued in the hardcover books. Newspaper clippings, when possible, are paper clipped together. Tape and glue are seen throughout the hardcover books. Some pages in the records secretaries are missing and notes have been made within the finding aid. There is a recognition plaque presented to the club in 1995 as well as a few photos. An 8x8 inch floppy diskette is in Folder 8 of Box #15. The scrapbook containing newspaper clippings in Box 16 is very fragile.

¹ Folder: Club History, 1895-2001, MS #035, Box 2, Folder 10, Lothrop Club of Beverly Collection. Historic Beverly, Beverly, Massachusetts.

² Ibid.

Copyright:

Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Associate Director for Collections and Exhibits in the Cabot House of Historic Beverly.

Preferred Citation:

The Lothrop Club of Beverly, 1895-2001, The Lothrop Club of Beverly, MSS#035, Historic Beverly, 117 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915.

Biographical or Historical Note:

The Lothrop Club of Beverly was chartered in 1895 with 100 members signing the first constitution. The first meeting of nineteen women occurred in the home of founder Mrs. Benjamin D. Webber to discuss “organizing a woman’s club having for its object the promotion of mental and social good³.” The club was named for Captain Thomas Lothrop. Upon receiving a grant of land from England on Bass River in 1636, he settled and helped found The First Parish Church of Beverly. While fighting in Narragansett War, he and mostly his entire crew of the “Flower of Essex” were killed September 18, 1675 at South Deerfield, Massachusetts.

The Genista Tinctoria, or woad-waxen, flower was adopted as the club flower. It had been brought and spread all over Salem and Beverly from England “by the early settlers and it still grows in abundance on the hillsides of Beverly and Salem⁴.” At one point in history, the flowers were used to create a yellow dye.

The club met the first twelve years of its existence meeting in the chapel on Washington Street until it moved to spend most of its years meeting in the Unitarian Parish House on Federal Street with meetings occurring some years at Pythian Castle.

The club seal featuring “a gate opening into a garden overlooking the ocean was unanimously chosen as most typical of Beverly, the ‘Garden City⁵’”. The seal was drawn by member Alice Bolam Preston and first appeared on the yearbook beginning 1929-1930.

The Lothrop Club of Beverly were heavily involved in the community hosting events, fundraisers, scholarships, and during the world wars aid or support for the war effort and later veterans throughout their active years until 2001 when the last yearbook was published and the club disbanded sometime in the late 1990s. The women of the Lothrop Club of Beverly were supporters of the social circle of the circle of the Blind. One interesting note, Ruth H. Hill who was the club historian in the early 1970s also worked for the Historical Society of Beverly (Historic Beverly).

³ Folder: Club History, 1895-2001, MS #035, Box 2, Folder 10, Lothrop Club of Beverly Collection. Historic Beverly, Beverly, Massachusetts.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Scope and Content Note:

The Lothrop Club Collection spans from 1895-2001 when the last membership booklet was printed. The officers of the club created the collection throughout the years of the club's existence. The collection consists of 22 hardbound books containing records secretaries, annual reports, membership and waiting lists⁶. There are 126 folders with loose papers ranging from correspondence, receipts, literature, awards, membership lists, insurance, financial documents, and newspaper clippings. There are 3 guest books of which two are still stored in the boxes they were purchased ranging from 1945-1973. The collection contains 92 membership booklets aka known as yearbooks with a calendar of events, officers, meeting times and locations, and committees. This number does not include the totality of duplicates. One 3-ring binder contains annual reports dating 1921-1928. There are 7 constitution and by-laws in single booklets, folders, and one of those is the by-laws of the Lothrop Club Juniors⁷ founded in 1944. Members were 18-30. There is one plaque given to the club in 1995, one 8x8 floppy disk, 1 scrapbook belonging to Mrs. Alice Conant spanning the dates of 1926-1930 including correspondence and news clippings, and one check book stub book ranging from 1973-1975.

There are six series in this collection beginning with the club constitution and by-laws. The constitution and by-laws are documentation of the articles of the organization from founding and revisions throughout the 100-year timespan the club was in existence. It is in these documents, fees, payment schedules, and consequences of late payments. In *Series I*, articles also define the limited number of members in the club at any given time. Term limits are set well as the departments and committees and their roles within the club.

Series II contains membership booklets from 1895 to 2001 when the last one was printed. The yearbooks are arranged by season beginning in April and ending in March. The earliest yearbooks were bound with yarn and a construction like paper. They were later staple bound as the years moved on. The first ones were simple, naming meeting time and place, presidents, executive board, departments, committees, calendar of events, and in memoriam. The style and what were included in the yearbooks varied every two years depending on the current President. Year of charter and federation, 1895, is included either on the front cover or within the first few pages of the yearbook. The club flower, genista Tinctoria (woad-waxen) is stated within the first few pages. Beginning in the season 1929-1930 the club seal was printed on the front cover. It was drawn by Mrs. Alice Bolam Preston and chosen on September 5, 1929, titled "Garden City⁸."

Series III contains governance records, reports, and memos pertaining to the running of the club by officers, departments, and committees. These are found in hardcover books, folders, and one 3-ring binder. There are corresponding folders containing records that had been glued to pages in the hardcover secretaries that had become unattached. These records range from 1895-2001.

⁶ Waiting lists are applications for potential members awaiting an approval vote from club members.

⁷ The Lothrop Club Juniors was founded by Ruth M. Bott in 1944. It was a club for young women who were not yet of age to join the Lothrop Club of Beverly.

⁸ Folder: Club History, 1895-2001, MS #035, Box 2, Folder 10, Lothrop Club of Beverly Collection. Historic Beverly, Beverly, Massachusetts.

Series IV contains annual reports of the activities of a given season which are written up by officers, department and committee leaders and are held in folders. I have grouped each season with their reports (i.e. 51,52,53: Officers, Departments, and Committees: 1991-1992). They are back to back within the box they are stored.

Series V contains financial records dating from 1895-1977. It consists of account books, cash books, check stubs, bank statements and cancelled checks, treasurer's reports, receipts, and insurance documents. The medium ranges from hardcover books to folders.

Series VI pertains to club activities from 1895-2001. Mrs. Conant's Scrapbook covering years 1926-1930 which is very fragile contains newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs. It is in this series where programs for plays, events that were listed in the calendar, luncheon programs, newspaper clippings, club anniversaries, history, plaque, guest books, awards, correspondence, and photographs are located. The club's history writeups are included in this series⁹.

Series List:

This collection is arranged into Series:

- Series I: Club Constitution and By-laws
- Series II: Membership Booklets, 1895-2001
- Series III: Governance Records
- Series IV: Annual Reports
- Series V: Financial Records
- Series VI: Club Activities

Container List:

Series I: Constitution, By-laws, and Federations (1895-1998)

Series/Arrangement Note: The Constitution and By-laws consist of the laws of the club, their mission, structure regarding executive board, committees, and departments, as well as amendments. Many of the booklets contain membership lists and any documentation of importance pertaining to the inner legal governance of the club including number of members accepted, cost of membership dues, and guests. They also state the committees and departments, how many officers, and their role in the club. Officer terms are named in the Constitution and By-laws.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	1	Constitution and By-laws and list of members	1897-1898

⁹ There are some membership booklets which also contain the club's history which were taken from here.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	5	Constitution and By-laws and list of members ¹⁰	1901-1902
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	10	Constitution and By-laws	1922
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	15	Constitution and By-law	1937
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	2	Revised By-laws	1967
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	6	By-laws	1977-1978
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	9	Constitution and By-laws	1937, 1956-1957, 1977, 1987, 1998
Unit 8, Shelf C	15	3	Lothrop Club Juniors By-Laws ¹¹	1944
Unit 8, Shelf B	15	5	Club Federations ¹²	1964, 1992, 1997-1998

Series II: Membership Booklets, (1895-2001)

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains membership booklets that list members, meeting place and times, federations, club flower, calendars, constitution and by-laws within the booklet, officers, executive directors, programs, committees, remembrances, and events for a given Season. Separate membership and waiting¹³ membership lists are also within this series. The member waiting list was created when applicants awaited an approval vote to be admitted to the club. Hopeful members were sponsored by a current member.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	3	5 Membership Booklets ¹⁴	1895-1900
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	6	1 Membership Booklet ¹⁵	1901-1902
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	7	5 Membership Booklets	1903-1908
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	8	Membership List	1907-1908
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	9, 12	22 Membership Booklets ¹⁶	1908-1930
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	13	Membership List	1931-1932
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	14, 16	29 Membership Booklets ¹⁷	1930-1960

¹⁰ Some duplicates.

¹¹ Lothrop Club Juniors was founded by Mrs. Ruth Bott to include younger women and a steppingstone to becoming members of the Lothrop Club

¹² Lothrop Club was a member of State and Federal Federations of which they attended meetings.

¹³ The waiting list was created when applicants awaited approval vote to be admitted into the club and were sponsored by a current member.

¹⁴ Duplicates in addition.

¹⁵ Season 1902-1903 not in collection.

¹⁶ Duplicates and Inserts in addition.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	1, 3	8 Membership Booklets ¹⁸	1961-1969
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	4	Silver Year Anniversary Membership Booklet ¹⁹	1895-1970
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	5, 7	16 Membership Booklets ²⁰	1970-19858
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	8	5 Membership Booklets ²¹	1991-2001
Unit 8, Shelf C	10	1	Folder: Membership List	1973-1974
Unit 8, Shelf C	10	2	Folder: Membership Application	1968, 1972
Unit 8, Shelf C	10	3	Hardcover Book, Membership and Waiting List	1919-1928
Unit 8, Shelf C	10	4	Folder: Membership and Waiting List	1972
Unit 8, Shelf C	10	5	Hardcover Book: Membership and Waiting List	1929-1963
Unit 8, Shelf C	10	6	Hardcover Book: Membership Waiting List	1895-1923
Unit 8, Shelf C	10	7	Hardcover Book: Membership Waiting List	1922-1958
Unit 8, Shelf C	15	4	Lothrop Club Junior Yearbooks	1944-1958

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ 75 years. Duplicates and Inserts in addition.

²⁰ Duplicates and Inserts in addition.

²¹ Ibid. Seasons 1993-1994 and 1997-1998 not in collection.

Series III: Governance Records

Series/Arrangement Note: Records pertaining to the governance of the club written in memos, letters, and record secretaries by officers of the executive board, departments, and committees. These records include activities done within the branches of the governance of the club through a given season. They are kept in manila folders or hardcover books some of which have pages stuck together. Originally glued informational papers have become unattached, therefore, have been placed in accompanying folders.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf A	3	1	Folder: Executive Board Records	1965, 1969, 1992-1996
Unit 8, Shelf A	3	2	Hardcover Book: Executive Board Records	1895-1915
Unit 8, Shelf A	3	3	Hardcover Book: Executive Board Records	1915-1940
Unit 8, Shelf A	4	1	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary	1895-1908
Unit 8, Shelf A	4	2	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary	1908-1921
Unit 8, Shelf A	5	1	Folder: Annual Report ²²	1932-1933, 1937-1938
Unit 8, Shelf A	5	2	Folder: Departments Annual Report	1932-1933
Unit 8, Shelf A	5	3	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary	1928-1936
Unit 8, Shelf A	5	4	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary ²³	1936-1942
Unit 8, Shelf A	5	5	3-Ring Binder: Annual Reports ²⁴	1921-1922, 1928
Unit 8, Shelf A	6	1	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary ²⁵	1942-1945
Unit 8, Shelf A	6	2	Folder Accompanying Above Book	1942-1945
Unit 8, Shelf A	6	3	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary ²⁶	1945-1950

²² Treasurer and Auditor only.

²³ Pp. 290 & 291 glued together.

²⁴ Pp. 941-942 missing.

²⁵ Loose pages placed in folder

²⁶ Ibid. pp.57-64, 249-264 missing.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf A	6	4	Folder Accompanying above Book	1945-1950
Unit 8, Shelf A	7	1	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary ²⁷	1950-1960
Unit 8, Shelf A	7	2	Folder Accompanying above Book	1950-1960
Unit 8, Shelf A	7	3	Hardcover Book: Record Secretary ²⁸	1960-1970
Unit 8, Shelf A	7	4	Folder Accompanying above Book	1960-1970
Unit 8, Shelf A	8	1	Hardcover Book: Corresponding Records of Work	1953-1957
Unit 8, Shelf A	8	2	Hardcover Book: Corresponding Records of Work	1959-1992
Unit 8, Shelf A	8	3	Hardcover Book: Corresponding Records of Work	1981-2001
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	17	Miscellaneous Documents	03/1967-1976
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	9	Scholarship Committee	1990-1991, 1994-1997, 2000-2001
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	11	Veteran's Service Reports	1967-1968, 1974
Unit 8, Shelf C	15	6	Miscellaneous Documents	1895-1896, 1941, 1966, 1970, 1973-1975, 1993
Unit 8, Shelf C	15	7	Miscellaneous Documents and 8" Floppy Disk	Various Dates

²⁷ Loose pages placed in folder.

²⁸ Ibid.

Series IV: Annual Reports

Series/Arrangement Note: This series is composed of mainly manila folders of annual reports written by officers of the executive board, departments, and committees highlighting achievements and activities they hosted or participated in throughout any given season. The records within the folders vary in number and do encompass all reports made by the Officers, Departments, and Committees. These are listed according to year with the folder of each of the governing branches grouped together in the Folder column.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	1,2,3	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1960-1961
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	4,5,6	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1961-1962
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	7,8,9	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1962-1963
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	10,11,12	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1963-1964
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	13,14,15	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1964-1965
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	16,17,18	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1965-1966
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	19,20,21	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1966-1967
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	22,23,24	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1967-1968
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	25,26,27	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1968-1969
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	28,29,30	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1969-1970
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	31,32,33	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1970-1971
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	34,35,36	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1971-1972
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	37,38,39	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1972-1973
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	40,41,42	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1973-1974

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	43,44,45	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1974-1975
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	46,47,48	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1975-1976
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	49	Auditor's Report	1986-1987
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	50	Officer's Report	1990-1991
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	51,52,53	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1991-1992
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	54,55,56	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1992-1993
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	57,58,59	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1993-1994
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	60,61	Officers and Departments	1994-1995
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	62,63,64	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1995-1996
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	65,66,67	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1996-1997
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	68,69,70	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1997-1998
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	71,72,73	Officers, Departments, and Committees	1998-1999

Series V. Financial Records

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains all documents pertaining to the financial aspect of the club including bank statements, receipts, and insurance.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf C	11	1	Hardcover Book: Account Book ²⁹	04/1923-03/1939
Unit 8, Shelf C	11	2	Hardcover Book: Account Book	04/1939-03/1950
Unit 8, Shelf C	12	1	Folder: Financial Records	1968-1975
Unit 8, Shelf C	12	2	Hardcover Book: Cash Book ³⁰	04/1950-08/1959
Unit 8, Shelf C	12	3	Folder: Corresponds with Folder 2 ³¹	04/1950-08/1959
Unit 8, Shelf C	12	4	Hardcover Book: Cash Book	09/1959-03/1968
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	1	Hardcover Book: Treasurer's Records ³²	06/1909-02/1968
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	2	Folder: Corresponding with Folder 1 ³³	06/1909-02/1968
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	3	Folder: Treasurer's Reports	1967-1968
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	4	Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks	04/1970-04/1971
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	5	Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks	05/1971-04/1972
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	6	Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks	05/1972-04/1973
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	7	Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks	05/1973-04/1974
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	8	Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks	05/1974-04/1975
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	9	Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks	05/1975-04/1976
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	10	Check Stubs	03/1973-01/1975
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	11	Receipts	05/1973-04/1974

²⁹ Pp. 101 & 103 glued together. Some ripped pages and rust marks where metal paper clips have been removed.

³⁰ Pp. 183-184, 199-202, 255-258 missing.

³¹ Miscellaneous papers from p. 197.

³² Book is very fragile, falling apart.

³³ Loose papers of Treasurer's Records.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	12	Receipts	05/1974-04/1975
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	13	Receipts	05/1975-04/1976
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	14	Receipts	05/1976-05/1977
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	15	Receipts	Undated
Unit 8, Shelf C	13	16	Insurance Documents	12/1960-10/1971

Series VI: Club Activities

Series/Arrangement Note: The club activities series contains correspondence, events, awards, literature, guest books, scrapbooks, and any records pertaining to the activities of the club within the community.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	2	Note cards with Notes wrapped in Notebook Paper ³⁴	1950-1956, 1961-1964
Unit 8, Shelf A	1	11	First Annual Luncheon Program	1923
Unit 8, Shelf A	2	10	Folder: Club History	1895-2001
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	74	Milestones: 75 th , 80 th , 100 th Anniversaries	1895-2001
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	75	Clippings from Mrs. Alice Conant's Scrapbook ³⁵	Various Years
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	76	News Clippings	1945-1947
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	77	News Clippings	1953-1959
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	78	News Clippings	1963-1969
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	79	News Clippings	1970-1973
Unit 8, Shelf C	9	80	News Clippings	Undated
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	1	Plaque with Photo	1995
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	2	Guest Book	11/1945-11/1966
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	3	Guest Book	10/1954-02/1963
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	4	Guest Book	03/1963-01/1973

³⁴ This is written by a possible donor or a someone who had held parts of the collection at one point.

³⁵ Mrs. Alice Conant's scrapbook is in Box #16.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date(s)
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	5	Folder: Community Improvement Award	Undated
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	6	Community Service: Correspondence and Photos	Various Dates
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	7	Literature and Drama	1925, 1962, 1967-1971
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	8	Preservation of American Heritage	1965-1966, 1971
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	10	Veteran's Service Correspondence	1966, 1968, 1972-1973
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	12	Veteran's Service	1964-1965, 1967-1969
Unit 8, Shelf C	14	13	Fundraising, Recipes	1972-1976
Unit 8, Shelf C	15	1	General Correspondence	1947, 1955-1957, 1967, 1971, 1973, 1991-1993
Unit 8, Shelf C	15	2	Acknowledgement Correspondence	1953, 1967-1969, 2000
Unit 8, Shelf C	16	1	Mrs. Alice Conant's Scrapbook with Newspaper Clippings/Correspondence ³⁶	1926-1930

Bibliography:

Lothrop Club of Beverly. Folder: Club History. 1895-2001. MS #035, Box 2, Folder 10. Lothrop Club of Beverly Collection. Historic Beverly, Beverly, Massachusetts.

³⁶ Very fragile.