



120 Academy Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608
609-392-7188 * www.trentonlib.org

Collection 219
Daughters of the American Revolution
General Washington Chapter, 1910-1980

By Mariel Carter
September 2020

History

The General Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1910. This chapter of the National organization primarily focused on community events, fundraising for charities, and historical preservation. The General Washington Chapter still exists in 2020.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of letters, membership rosters, meeting minutes, scrapbooks, and other documents relating to the Daughters of the American Revolution Club in Trenton. Items in the collection range from 1910 to 1980.

The Daughters of the American Revolution collection traces the happenings of the Trenton D.A.R. and its relation to the State and National Organizations. Documents in the collection illustrate important issues to members of this women's club throughout the 20th century.

The collection is contained in four boxes and organized into five series: Series I. The General Washington Chapter; Series II. New Jersey State D.A.R.; Series III. National D.A.R.; Series IV. Photographs; and Series V. Publications.

Series Description

Series I. Organizational Records

This series is broken down into six subseries.

- A. Documents - contains documents pertaining to the General Washington Chapter's functionality. Within this subseries are meeting minutes, membership rosters, awards for the club, and items regarding official club business. This subseries elucidates how

- the club organized itself, and gives specific names of women who were in the club. Of particular interest are colorized General Washington D.A.R. Postcards.
- B. Finances - contains financial records such as membership dues and receipts for the General Washington Chapter. Checkbooks from various treasurers, payments to and from D.A.R. headquarters, and invoices from Trenton companies demonstrate how money was spent within the club. The invoices show Trenton businesses of the era.
 - C. Correspondence - contains letters and other correspondence with reference to the General Washington Chapter. Handwritten letters from new inductees thanking the club for membership make up most of the subseries. Other letters discuss Chapter events.
 - D. Charity Work – contains documents indicating charitable actions performed by the General Washington Chapter. The subseries contains letters from external charitable organizations requesting donations or sponsorship from the General Washington Chapter, documents of the Chapter approving or denying funds, and messages of thanks from charities. These documents indicate club values, as they raised awareness for causes such as underfunded schools, liberty bonds, and historical preservation.
 - E. Sponsored Events - contains records of events put on by the General Washington Chapter. The Chapter sponsored community events such as movie showings and Christmas pageants, while representing the Chapter at national events.
 - F. Scrapbooks - contains scrapbooks tracing the history of the General Washington Chapter in Trenton. This subseries features five scrapbooks made up of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other paraphernalia from the Trenton D.A.R. The scrapbooks were created by members of the club and club leaders. Scrapbook 307 was previously stored in a 3-ring binder; now stored in two folders.

Series II. New Jersey State D.A.R.

This series features documents regarding the D.A.R. at the state level. These items explain the regulations under which the General Washington Chapter operated, such as treasury reports or publicity rules. Many events sponsored by the New Jersey D.A.R. featured Chapters from all across the state, including the General Washington Chapter. Items in this series often apply to multiple New Jersey Chapters, General Washington being one of them.

Series III. National D.A.R.

This series contains checks, pamphlets, and handouts from the National Daughters of the American Revolution Association. These documents illustrate values of the club as a national organization, and therefore gives an idea of the General Washington Chapter's values. Memorabilia distributed from the national level may have been given out by the New Jersey D.A.R. and/or the General Washington Chapter.

Series IV. Photographs

This series contains one photograph of an unlabeled room in Trenton, New Jersey. The photograph was taken by Photo Art Co Inc.

Series V. Publications

This series contains one record box of publications related to the State and National Societies of the D.A.R., including Lineage Books (1892-1898); Annual Reports, Annual State Conference

(1935- 1940, 1943-1944, 1946-1950); and Proceedings of the Continental Congress of the National Society of the DAR (1935-1941, 1947-1950).

Container List

Box / Folder / Folder Title

Series I.

1 / 1 / Minutes 1932-1934
1 / 2 / Minutes 1935-1940
1 / 3 / Minutes 1941-1944
1 / 4 / Minutes 1945-1948
1 / 5 / Minutes 1955-1959 (Bound with letter dated 1959)
1 / 6 / Formal Correspondence
1 / 7 / Documents
1 / 8 / Membership
1 / 9 / Awards
1 / 10 / Finances 1910-1914
1 / 11 / Finances 1915-1926 (+ undated)
1 / 12 / Correspondence 1910-1924
1 / 13 / Correspondence 1925-1978 (+ undated)
2 / 1 / Charity Work
2 / 2 / Sponsored Events
3 / / Scrapbook 1912-1934
2 / / Clippings Scrapbook 1930-1938 (SB307)
3 / / Scrapbook 1938-1950 (SB309)
2 / / Publicity Scrapbook 1964
3 / / Organizational Records Scrapbook 1968-1971 (SB314)

Series II.

2 / 3 / New Jersey State DAR

Series III.

2 / 4 / National DAR

Series IV

2 / 5 / Photographs

Series V

4 / / Publications