

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 95

Date processed: November, 1978

- I. Title Daughters of the American Revolution. Connecticut.
Mary Clap Wooster chapter, New Haven. Records, 1893 - 1974.
- II. The papers of
deposited in the Library in 1976 , by vote of the M.C.W. membership.
In converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 6 feet 4 inches.
Approximate number of items: 2,250, including 32 bound volumes.
- IV. Restrictions: None.
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on -----
- VII. Biographical note:

See page 2.

VIII. Analysis: The collection comprises 15 boxes and 2 oversize items
arranged as follows:

Boxes I - V Minutes of meetings.
VI - VII Correspondence, reports, memorabilia, etc.
VIII Church and civil lists.
IX - XIV Genealogy plus special subjects.
XV Miscellaneous
Oversize items 1 & 2.

Biographical note:

Mary Clap Wooster chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

On April 21, 1893 eighteen ladies met at the home of Mrs. Morris F. Tyler in New Haven to consider the foundation of a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.). The discussions led to the founding of the Mary Clap Wooster (M.C.W.) chapter, the eighth in the state of Connecticut. The chapter charter was issued on October 4, 1893.

The chapter was named in honor of Mary Clap Wooster (1729 - 1807) of New Haven, daughter of Thomas Clap (1703 - 1767), fifth Rector and first President of Yale, and wife of General David Wooster (1711 - 1777) who was mortally wounded in the battle of Danbury. During the invasion of New Haven by the British in 1779, Mary Clap Wooster was personally abused, her house ransacked and her furniture destroyed by British soldiers because she was the widow of a Continental general who had worn the British uniform in the French and Indian war. She is buried in the Grove Street Cemetery.

Officers of the chapter included a Regent, two Vice-Regents, a Registrar, Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Librarian, Chaplain and Historian. There were nine Directors and a number of committees, the most important of which was that on ancestral research.

To become a member of the D.A.R. one has to prove that she is a direct descendant of a Revolutionary war soldier or officer. An applicant must submit very detailed proof which is reviewed and approved (or disapproved) by the national D.A.R. headquarters in Washington, D.C. This places great emphasis on the study of family lineage and genealogy. Most of the papers in the M.C.W. records concern family genealogy, usually derived from family bibles. A standard format is used for each D.A.R. genealogy that is prepared. The hundreds of genealogies in these records represent an astonishing amount of genealogical research.

Like any organization, from time to time the M.C.W. chapter has its own internal problems. For example, in the election of chapter officers in 1915, the post of First Vice-Regent was bitterly contested. The winner was decided on a parliamentary and quasi-legal basis by the State Regent. Mrs. Wilbur Cross was judged winner over Mrs. Charles Messinger. As a result, approximately sixty members resigned.

The Mary Clap Wooster chapter remains active today. It is one of two D.A.R. chapters in New Haven and over the years has had an average membership of approximately 525. Its service committees have been founded or disbanded as the need arose. Until the federal government closed Ellis Island in 1951, the M.C.W. chapter maintained

Biographical note (cont'd.):

an Ellis Island Committee which sent food and clothing first to the immigrants and later to the prison inmates there. In World War II the M.C.W. chapter National Defense Committee was particularly effective in Red Cross work, war bond sales and fund raising for military hospitals. The on-going committees have performed and continue to perform useful and beneficial work of various kinds, particularly with young girls.

The Mary Clap Wooster chapter records were donated to the Society in 1976 by vote of the membership. The gift included a number of books and pamphlets not in these records. A complete list has been filed in Box XV, folder H.

Content Guide

Mary Clap Wooster chapter of the D.A.R. Records, 1893 - 1974.

Box I

- Folder A - Chapter minutes, 1893 - 1898.
- B - Same, 1893 - 1898(Photostats).
- C - Same, 1898 - 1905.
- D - Board minutes, 1895 - 1899.
- E - Same, 1899 - 1910.

Box II

- Folder A - Board minutes, 1910 - 1916.
 - B - Same, 1916 - 1923.
 - C - Same, 1923 - 1929.
 - D - Same, 1929 - 1935.
- 1915 case of contested election
first vice-regent

Box III

- Folder A - Chapter minutes, 1905 - 1909.
- B - Same, 1909 - 1910.
- C - Same, 1910 - 1915.
- D - Same, 1916 - 1924.
- E - Same, 1925 - 1928.

Box IV

- Folder A - Board minutes, 1935 - 1942.
- B - Same, 1942 - 1951.
- C - Same, 1951 - 1959.
- D - Same, 1959 - 1969.
- E - Same, 1978 - 1983.

Box V

- Folder A - Chapter minutes, 1928 - 1934.
- B - Same, 1934 - 1940.
- C - Same, 1940 - 1949.
- D - Same, 1949 - 1964.
- E - Same, 1978 - 1983.

Box VI

- Folders A - SS - Correspondence, lists and memorabilia, 1893 - 1958, including M.C.W. chapter WW II effort (Folder JJ).

Box VII

- Folders A - K - Chapter correspondence, lists and memorabilia, 1959 - 1974.
- Folder L - Ellis Island Committee
- M - Girl Homemaker Committee, 1930 - 1935.
- N - Same, 1936 - 1946.
- O - Junior Committee.
- P - Newspaper clippings, general.
- Q - Same, 1932 - 1934.

Content Guide

Mary Clap Wooster chapter D.A.R. Records, 1893 - 1974.

Box VIII

Folders A - CC - 17th and 18th century church, cemetery and civil lists from the following areas:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Branford | New Fairfield | State records |
| Bridgeport | New Haven County | Stratford |
| Bristol | New London | Suffield |
| East Haven | Newport | Trumbull |
| Fair Haven | & Providence, R.I. | Unidentified |
| Granville, Vt. | Newtown | Wallingford |
| Guilford | New Preston | Western New York |
| Middletown | Nova Scotia | Wethersfield |
| Milford | Southington | Woodbridge |
| | Stamford | |

Box IX

Family Genealogy

Boxes IX - XI, names filed alphabetically by the M.C.W. chapter.

Folder A - Bible records A - Z (Group I) with index.
B - Same, A - G (Group II).
C - Same, H - P (Group II).
D - Same, R - Z (Group II).
E - Same, A - Z (Group III).

Box X

Folder A - Family bible records copied by M.C.W. chapter for N.H.C.H.S. (Volume I).
B - Same, (Volume II).
C - Same, (Volume III).
D - Same, (Volume IV).
E - Same, (Volume V).

Box XI

Folder A - Connecticut state chapters D.A.R., bible records (Volume I).
B - Bible records (Volume II).
C - Church and town records (Volume III).
D - Family records (Volume IV).

Box XII

Folder A - D.A.R. instructions for drawing up genealogies.
Folders B - G - Family genealogies A - F filed by N.H.C.H.S.

Content Guide

Mary Clap Wooster chapter of the D.A.R. Records, 1893 - 1974.

Box XIII

Folders A - L - Family genealogies G - R filed by N.H.C.H.S.
Folder M - Lineage of Blanche Sears Rounds.

Box XIV

Folders A - F - Family genealogies S - Y filed by N.H.C.H.S.
Folder G - Booklets with multi-family genealogies.
H - Military commissions.
I - Property deeds.
J - Gravestone inscriptions.
K - Marriage licenses.
L - Revolutionary war.
M - Quotations from samplers.
N - Stories and biographies.

Box XV

Folder A - Inventory of M.C.W. chapter relics circa 1906.
(Items turned over to N.H.C.H.S. in 1907).
B - M.C.W. chapter attendance record book, 1935 - 1940.
C - Same, 1940 - 1947.
D - M.C.W. chapter address books, undated (2).
E - Paperback books on genealogy (3) dated 1929, 1932, 1935.
F - Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.). Bound note-
-book on genealogy, 1919.
Misc. correspondence relating to S.A.R.
Incomplete membership application blank, S.A.R.
G - Miscellaneous, including:
Story of transcontinental trip in covered wagon in
1860. Story undated, modern typescript copy.
Facsimile of Century of Progress award, Chicago, 1893.
Group photo, D.A.R. state meeting, 1945, 1955
H - List of items turned over to N.H.C.H.S. by M.C.W.
chapter in 1976.
I - D.A.R. Guide to Motion Pictures. [Evaluations on postcards].

Item I

Scrapbook, M.C.W. chapter baby pictures, circa 1945.
(Oversize)

J ITALIAN POSTER

~~Item II~~

M.C.W. chapter group picture, no identification,
undated. (Oversize)

MOVED TO FOLDER G, BOX XIV

MARY CLAPP WOOSTER CHAPTER, D.A.R.

Box/Folder

Contents

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16/A Board Minutes, D.A.R. School and American Indian Contributions, Attendance sheets, letters from Regents, Plannings Meetings, Reports of Nominating Committee, October 1983-May 1993.

16/B Chapter Meetings, October 1983-June 1993.

16/C Annual Reports of Treasurer, Budgets, and Report of Registrar, 1984-1994.

16/D Hilliard material
Application and related membership material for Mabel Edith Curtis Hilliard, 1937.

“George Washing^{ton} A Man to Remember”
paper by William E. Hilliard

16/E Connecticut Tercentenary – Official Packet of Snapshots issued by the Connecticut D.A.R.

16/F

YEARBOOK 2010-2011
YEARBOOK 2011-2012
Yearbook 2012-2013
Yearbook 2013-2014