

Guide to the Peters Township Society of Farm Women records, 1918-1966

Summary Information

Collection No.:	MS 2023.043
Title:	Peters Township Society of Farm Women records
Inclusive Dates:	1918-1966
Author:	Carolyn Friedrich, Margaret Deitzer, and Nancy Martin
Repository:	Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
Creator:	Peters Township Society of Farm Women
Extent:	4 boxes, 3.8 linear feet
Language of materials:	All materials are in English.
Abstract:	The Peters Township Society of Farm Women records, consisting of minute books, scrapbooks, and miscellaneous documents, document the formation of the organization in September 1918 and the organization's activities, both social and charitable, through 1966.

Biography/History

In 1918, as part of the war effort, a man from each Pennsylvania township was selected by the County Director of Agriculture to make reports on crop conditions. These men were also directed to appoint a woman to organize a Society of Farm Women chapter in their area. Ora Bell Bryant accepted an appointment by a representative of the Washington County Department of Agriculture to organize a Society of Farm Women chapter in Peters Township. On September 20, 1918, Bryant invited local women to a meeting in her home in Venetia, Peters Township, and during this meeting they formed the Peters Township Society of Farm Women. The newly formed organization started with 28 members. Over the first 20 years, as many as 70 women belonged to the chapter at one point or another. At the twenty-year anniversary, the Peters Township Society of Farm Women had 17 active and five honorary members.

In a September 1938 *Morning Observer* newspaper article, Mrs. David Rees, the Society's first president, tells the story of the founding of the Society and the history of

the first twenty years of the Peters Township Society of Farm Women. Mrs. Rees reported, "To be statistical, we held more than two hundred meetings, prepared and read maybe 1000 papers, heard possible thirty speakers, made garments for hospitals, carpet rags for the blind, have gone on trips ... held flower shows, ... and made ourselves as useful as we knew how." Rees further stated, "Probably the finest achievement was the organization of a Junior organization."

While the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania continues today, the Peters Township chapter of this organization is no longer in operation.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of meeting minutes and scrapbooks of the Peters Township Society of Farm Women. It also contains miscellaneous records relating to the Society.

The five bound volumes of meeting minutes document the Society's activities from its formation on September 20, 1918 through April 1966.

The three scrapbooks cover the years 1918-1938 and 1946-1959. The scrapbooks contain Peters Township Society of Farm Women year books, poems, photographs, lists of members, newspaper clippings, bible verses, greeting cards, obituaries and meeting notices.

Arrangement

The records are arranged in 3 series:

- Series I. Minute books, 1918-1966
- Series II. Scrapbooks, 1918-1938, 1946-1959
- Series III. Miscellaneous records, 1961, 1963

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:

Access is restricted. The 1918-1938 and 1946-1953 scrapbooks are unavailable due to their fragility.

Acquisition Information:

The minute books were a gift of Doris Trax in April 2008. The scrapbooks were a gift of Charles Trax and Tim Trax in February 2024. The miscellaneous records were a gift of Bonnie Lushen in December 2023.

Custodial History:

The minute books and scrapbooks arrived as donations from members of the Trax family whose relatives were members of the Peters Township Society of Farm Women.

Accruals note:

No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Society of Farm Women records, Collection MS 2023.043, Peters Township Public Library

Processing Information:

The minute books were processed by Carolyn Friedrich and Margaret Deitzer in December 2023. The scrapbooks were processed by Nancy Martin in March 2024.

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Related Materials

Hutchison family papers, MS2020.020, Series I. Peters Township Society of Farm Women, 1919-1960

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Contents List

Series I. Minute books, 1918-1966

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of five bound volumes of Peters Township Society of Farm Women minute books. The minutes document installation services, names of charter members, meeting locations, meeting and program hosts, accounting records, and other official actions undertaken by the members.

The minute books also contain information about charitable works, community activities, and a variety of motions discussed and voted on by the members. Minutes include detailed reports from committee chairpersons about various committee activities. The volumes also include a few newspaper clippings, notes, and letters that have been glued onto pages or interleaved.

Box 1	
Volume I	Minute book, September 1918-December 1929
Volume II	Minute book, January 30-April 1953
Volume III	Minute book, May 1935-November 1944
Volume IV	Minute book, December 1944-July 1957
Volume V	Minute book, September 1957-April 1966

Series II. Scrapbooks, 1918-1938, 1946-1959

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of three scrapbooks created by members of the Peters Township Society of Farm Women. The scrapbooks contain the Society's year books, poems, photographs, lists of members, newspaper clippings, bible verses, greeting cards, obituaries and meeting notices. The pages are often decorated with magazine clippings appropriate to the season. The pages are arranged chronologically within each scrapbook.

Box 2	Scrapbook, 1918-1938
Box 3	Scrapbook, 1946-1953
Box 4	Scrapbook, 1954-1959

Series III. Miscellaneous records, 1961, 1963

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of the Thursday, October 19, 1961 edition of the *News Progress* containing an article about the "canning bee" held by the Peters Township Society of Farm Women, and a 1963 photograph of the "Girls who went to Turkeyfoot School", some of whom were members of the Society of Farm Women.

Box 1	
Folder 1:	<i>News Progress</i> , Thursday, October 19, 1961
	Photograph of "Girls that went to Turkeyfoot School", 1963
Folder 2:	<i>The Record: Official Organ of the Washington County Federation of Women's Clubs</i> , April 1938