

# Women's History Resource Guide

## Archives of the Midland County Historical Society

The archives of the Midland County Historical Society documents the history, activities and impact of the women of Midland County through records of organizations, clubs and personal papers.

Finding aids for many of these collections are available to review online.

Visit: <http://mcfta.pastperfectonline.com> to learn more about the archives of the Midland County Historical Society.

### [Midland Women's Club Records, 1934-1983](#)

The Midland Women's Club was organized in December 1934 and Federated in 1935. The club formed to promote literacy, service pursuits and vital interests of the day. Their motto was: "Let us be large in thought, word and deed". The group met twice a month from October until May and included 30 members. Records of the Midland Women's Club includes Meeting Minutes, Scrapbooks, Correspondence, Programs and club History.

### [Kings Daughters and Sons Records, 1913-2005](#)

Founded on February 13, 1913 by 13 young women, the Kings Daughters and Sons organization was originally associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Midland. The founders based their organization on the New York chapter of the International order of the Kings Daughters and Sons, which was founded in 1886. The original objective of the organization was to develop spiritual life and stimulate Christian activities. Activities of the club included establishing social welfare services including Family and Children's Services and the Visiting Nurses Association.

### [Midland County Girl Scouts and Midland Girls Work Council Records, 1923-1968](#)

The Midland Girls Work Council was organized on April 27, 1923 through the impetus of B.B. Ball to provide an organization for young girls. By June 4, 1923 the council decided to sponsor three Girl Scout troops for girls 10-16 years of age. The council sponsored troops into the 1960s when this collection ends.

### [Dorothy Langdon Yates Papers, 1930-2010](#)

Dorothy Langdon Yates (1914-2011) was a writer, author and community activist in Midland County. First coming to Midland to work as the Society Editor for the Midland Republican in 1937. Dorothy gave up her job after her marriage in 1939 becoming active in community organizations including the Midland AAUW, Presbyterian Church, Visiting Nurses Association and the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Dorothy Yates would go on to author or co-author six local history books.

### [Midland District Nurses Association Records, 1940-1966](#)

The Midland District Nurses Association was organized in May 1940 and included 28 registered nurses in Midland County. The association was established in affiliation with the Michigan State Nurses Association and national organizations. The organization was established to reflect the changes in the field of nursing and the need for ongoing education.

### [Midland Faculty Dames Records, 1940-1993](#)

Created in 1938 by Mrs. Zella Shaefer, the superintendent's wife, the Midland Faculty Dames served as a social club for the wives of male teachers and administrators. The first official meeting was held on September 23, 1943 at the home of Thelma Doughty with 21 members. By 1982 the Dames state purpose was "...to promote friendship among the Dames through social activities and programs, and to provide service within the community." Membership was open to the

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wives of all men employed by the Midland City Board of Education. By 1987 membership opened to include female employees of the Midland City Board of Education.

### [League of Women Voters - Midland Area Records, 1967-2015](#)

The League of Women Voters of the Midland area was founded in 1967. The group lead studies in public policy and educated voters on candidates during election times.

### [UNICEF Club of Midland Records, 1966-2014](#)

The UNICEF Committee of Midland grew in the late 1960's out of efforts by the United Church Women (later renamed Church Women United) in an effort to engage local women interested in learning about the mission of the United Nations. Early work by the Church Women United led to the establishment of the League of Women Voters-Midland Chapter. Working with the League of Women Voters and the local American Association of University Women and the Association for Childhood Education International the local committee developed with specific goals including "...become more acquainted with the UN through study, interviewing, and attending seminars to gather information and make contacts; to share this information with the community and developed ways of obtaining support for it." The Midland Area UNICEF Committee was established for the "...purpose of increasing awareness in the community of the health, education, clean water and emergency needs of children and families around the world."

### [Newman Club Records, 1923-1984](#)

In the fall of 1922 Father J.B. Illig of St. Brigid Catholic Church first approached the idea of forming a literary club of catholic ladies. Charter members of the club include Addie (Reardon) Anderson, Catherine Nehil, Myron Thompson, Ellen E. Dougher, Alzena Goulet and Agnes Hickey.

### [Twentieth Century Club Records, 1917-2015](#)

The 20th Century Club was founded on 23 January 1917 as a study club for women. Organized by six women who felt a need of "mutual improvement and sociability", the first meeting took place in the home of Rea White. The club was originally called the Bay-View Club, the name was changed to the 20th Century Club 23 April 1917 at the same time the first Constitution and By-Laws were written.

### [Midland County Lawyers Auxiliary, 1961-2001](#)

Formed in 1961 as the Midland County Bar Association Auxiliary, the group formed as a social club for the wives of Midland County Lawyers.

### [Atheneum Club Records, 1939-1990](#)

Atheneum Club (named after Athena the Greek goddess of wisdom) started in 1939 and disbanded in 1990. Organized for women who desired to "promote literature, art, scientific learning and any subjects beneficial to the group" for the purpose of improving their local community. The club started with eleven members in 1939, and limited the membership to 30 active and associate members at one time.

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### [Diversity Club Records, 1930-1995](#)

The Diversity Club was organized in Midland in 1930 for women interested in intellectual and social improvement. Originally sponsored by the Women's Study Club for young women.

### [Midland Blue Star Mothers-Chapter #31 Records, 1950-1960](#)

The Midland Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers, no. 31 was founded February 2, 1942, Organized June 22, 1942 and Chartered January 7, 1943. The mission of the Blue Star Mothers of America was to be "...Patriotic, educational, social and service; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America; to be true to the high ideals of Democracy; to encourage the principles of universal liberty, equal rights and full justice to all men."--"Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Ritual"

### [National Organization for Women, Midland Chapter Records, 1972-1978](#)

Founded nationally in 1966, the National Organization for Women (NOW) Midland Chapter formed in 1972 with the purpose of taking "action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men."

### [Women's Committee for National Defense](#)

World War I era registration or pledge of Service cards created by the Woman's Committee of Council of National Defense registering women from across Midland County. The Council of National defense was established as an emergency agency by the Army Appropriation Act of 1916. It consisted of the Secretaries of War, the Navy, the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and Labor, assisted by an Advisory Commission appointed by the President.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration.

### [Midland Federation of Women's Clubs Records, 1933-1963](#)

Organized in January 1933 the Midland Federation of Women's Clubs was organized for the purpose of cooperation of affiliated federated clubs in Midland. The federation organized meetings between the clubs, activities and the representation of Midland clubs at the Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs.

### [Oral History Collection](#)

The oral history collection includes interviews conducted with women from across Midland County.

### [The Midland Log Publications](#)

Published by the Midland County Historical Society, five issues of the Midland Log highlight women's history.

### **Additional Records available in the Archives**

AAUW Midland (MI) Branch Records  
Monday Club Records  
Women's Study Club Records  
Midland Little Garden Club Records  
Church Women United Records