



DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Remembering Dallas' past builds her future

Mary K. Craig Class Records

A.83.157

Finding aid

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Members of the Mary K. Craig Class

Title: Mary K. Craig Class Records

Dates: 1894-1994

Quantity: three linear feet

Abstract:

These are the early records of the Mary K. Craig Class, a women's group located in Dallas, Texas. The purpose of the Mary K. Craig Class is the cultural enlightenment of women. They seek to bring enjoyment as well as instill leadership in their members. Mary Kittrell Craig organized the group around 1894. Members presented papers on topics assigned to them by Mrs. Craig; topics included current events, history, literature, art, and travel. After the death of its founder, the class met in 1921 and made the decision to continue meeting, renaming the group after their founder. The Mary K. Craig class changed the direction of education in Dallas by adopting the lecture field as their primary means of teaching. This group was the first in Dallas to seek outside speakers from the national and global arena. Programing changed from member presentations to invited guest lecturers. The class introduced members to a more diversified program, bringing in authors, artists, musicians, clergy, travelers, professors, and government officials to speak on a variety of topics.

Identification: A.83.157

Location: The archives of the Dallas Historical Society

Language: The materials are in English

Repository: The Dallas Historical Society

Biographical Sketch:

Mary Kittrell Craig was born on November 17, 1842, in Jackson, Mississippi. After graduating from the Wilcox Female Academy, she married a cotton planter, Emmett E. Craig. The two moved to Texas in 1874, settling in Paris where Mrs. Craig worked as a teacher. The couple then relocated to Dallas where Emmett Craig died two years later.

Mrs. Craig taught classes at the Grove School, the Dallas Academy (the oldest private school in Dallas) and at the Hockaday School for girls. She believed in the value of travel, in the liberal arts, and in continuing education. Her goal was to serve the young matrons, housewives, as well as girls of Dallas who want to continue their education. She taught them in their homes about the classics in literature including Homer, Dante, and Shakespeare, history, and foreign languages.

For over thirty years Mrs. Craig taught her study group, the Wednesday class, about art, literature, and travel; as time progressed, she incorporated politics and current events of the day. Over the years Mary actively participated in numerous other organizations including the Standard Club, the Saturday Afternoon Club, the Browning Club and the Homer Circle.

After the death of Mrs. Craig on August 31, 1921, the members of the Wednesday class decided to continue to meet as a study group under, renaming the class after their mentor. The direction of the class changed from member presentations to guest lecturers. The class hosted numerous female guests over the years including Amelia Earhart, Vera Brittain, Mary Ellen Chase, Princess Kroptokin, and the Dame of Sark. Male guests included Hector Bolitho Phillip Guedalla, Will Druant, and James Micherner.

The Mary K. Craig Class is known for its distinct personality. Members are commended for their attentiveness, intelligence, and courteousness, as recounted by numerous guest lecturers. "The class itself seeks no publicity, none for its personnel, no social acclaim, no pictures in the newspapers." Any publicity was purely on behalf of and for the benefit of the lecturers. They seek neither financial incentive nor notoriety; they are dedicated to their membership and communicating the importance of education in Dallas.

Scope and Contents Note:

The collection is arranged alphabetically by file name. The bulk of the collection consists of the "Class Resumes" which give detailed descriptions of the programs for that particular year, a list of the speakers as well as their topics and sometimes a list of members and/or officers and notes from the meetings. These documents are an excellent source of information for researchers interested in finding out how local and world events shaped the selection of lecturers and the direction of the Mary K. Craig Class.

Other materials include notes taken by various members, minutes from board meetings, correspondence, news clippings, and copies of the class's history.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions:

Permission to publish, reproduce, distribute, or use by all other current or future developed methods or procedures must be obtained in writing from the Dallas Historical Society. All rights are reserved and retained regardless of current or future development or laws that may apply to fair use standards.

Subjects (Persons):

Craig, Mary Kittrell
Speer, Alice L.
Belsterling, E.A.
Taylor, Mrs. Roy (Florence)

Subjects (Organizations):

Mary K. Craig Class
Dallas Woman's Club

Subjects:

Education – Adult Education
Education – Chautauqua's
Clubs – Women-Societies and clubs

Places:

Dallas, TX
Dallas Woman's Club

Document Types:

Documents, Clippings and Journals

Titles:

Historical Manuscripts Collection

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Mary K. Craig Class Records, A.83.157, Box Number, Folder Number, The Dallas Historical Society.

Acquisition Information:

The records were donated to the Dallas Historical Society by the Mary K. Craig Class in 1983 and in 2001.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid authors: Jennifer Sigrist, Suzanne Adams, Raphaela Van Ores, Brooke Belcher, and Chris Bohannon.

Description of Series

Documents relating the Mary K. Craig Class organization including newspaper articles, notes, records, calendars, schedules, and histories.

Box #	Folder #	Title/Description	Date
1	A.83.157.1	Board Meeting Minutes	1971-1975
	A.83.157.2	Board Meeting Minutes	1976-1980
	A.83.157.3	Board Meeting Minutes	1981-1988
	A.83.157.4	Class Account book, this is the original handwritten version. There is a transcribed version in A.83.157.80 (Box 3).	1924 - 1970
	A.83.157.5	Class Annals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech written by Jeannette Gaston and delivered on Nov 26, 1941, before the class and Dr. Herbert Gambrell of the Dallas Historical society 	1941
	A.83.157.6	Class History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiled by Mrs. Edward A. Belsterling 	1894-1959
	A.83.157.7	Class History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow bound edition of the Class History from 1894-1959. Handwritten. Account compiled from writings, letters, and personal experiences of early and subsequent members. Written by Mrs. Edward A. Belsterling. Contains list of presidents and a partial list of speakers at the back. 	1894-1959
	A.83.157.8	Class History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edited by Jane Etheridge 	1894-1983
	A.83.157.9	Class History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edited by Lillian Cullum Tate 	1894-1994
	A.83.157.10	Clippings	1933
	A.83.157.11	Clippings	1968-1970
	A.83.157.12	Clippings	1967-1968
	A.83.157.13	Clippings	1970 - 1971, undated
	A.83.157.14	Craig Class and Florence	Undated

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Mrs. Florence Green Taylor. Possibly written by Katherine Holt. Also includes a unsigned handwritten noted entitled prologue. 	
	A.83.157.15	Craig Class Programs	1924-1926
	A.83.157.16	Craig Class Resume	1926-1927
	A.83.157.17	Craig Class Resumé	1927-1928
	A.83.157.18	Craig Class Resumé	1928-1929
	A.83.157.19	Craig Class Resumé	1929-1930
	A.83.157.20	Craig Class Resumé	1930-1931
	A.83.157.21	Craig Class Resumé <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Titled "typed Lecture notes" 	1931-1932
	A.83.157.22	Craig Class Resumé	1932-1933
	A.83.157.23	Craig Class Resumé	1933-1934
	A.83.157.24	Craig Class Resumé	1934-1935
	A.83.157.25	Craig Class Resumé	1935-1936
	A.83.157.26	Craig Class Resumé	1936-1937
	A.83.157.27	Craig Class Resumé	1937-1938
	A.83.157.28	Craig Class Resumé	1938-1939
	A.83.157.29	Craig Class Resumé	1939-1940
	A.83.157.30	Craig Class Resumé	1940-1941
	A.83.157.31	Craig Class Resumé	1941-1942
	A.83.157.32	Craig Class Resumé	1942-1943
	A.83.157.33	Craig Class Resumé	1943-1944
	A.83.157.34	Craig Class Resume	1944-1945
	A83.157.34	Craig Class Resumé	1945-1946
	A.83.157.36	Craig Class Resumé	1946-1947
2	A.83.157.37	Craig Class Resumé	1947-1948
	A.83.157.38	Craig Class Resumé	1948-1949
	A.83.157.39	Craig Class Resumé	1949-1950
	A.83.157.40	Craig Class Resumé	1950-1951
	A.83.157.41	Craig Class Resumé	1951-1952
	A.83.157.42	Craig Class Resumé	1952-1953
	A.83.157.43	Craig Class Resumé	1953-1954
	A.83.157.44	Craig Class Resumé	1954-1955
	A.83.157.45	Craig Class Resumé	1955-1956
	A.83.157.46	Craig Class Resumé	1956-1957
	A.83.157.47	Craig Class Resumé	1957-1958
	A.83.157.48	Craig Class Resumé	1958-1959
	A.83.157.49	Craig Class Resumé	1959-1960

	A.83.157.50	Craig Class Resumé	1960-1961
	A.83.157.51	Craig Class Resumé	1961-1962
	A.83.157.52	Craig Class Resumé	1962-1963
	A.83.157.53	Craig Class Resumé	1963-1964
	A.83.157.54	Craig Class Resumé	1964-1965
	A.83.157.55	Craig Class Resumé	1965-1966
	A.83.157.56	Craig Class Resumé	1969-1970
	A.83.157.57	Doom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A story entitled "Doom". Author unknown. Story talks about Hitler and the second World War. Told in first person. 	undated
	A.83.157.58	Florence's Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes taken by Florence Taylor from class meetings. Reads very similar to a Mary K. Craig class Resume. Notes are typed. 	1966-1968
	A.83.157.59	Florence's Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes taken by Florence Taylor from class meetings. Reads very similar to a Mary K. Craig class Resume. Some notes are typed, and some are handwritten. 	1968-1969, undated
	A.83.157.60	Genealogical Information on Mrs. Craig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter written by Val Hain to Franklin on July 22, 1982. Mr. Val Hain attempted to try and track down Mary K. Craig's family history in Alabama. Includes photocopy of <i>Northern Alabama: Historical and Biographical Illustrated</i>. 	1982
	A.83.157.61	Journal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwritten journal of events: author unknown. FRAGILE. 	1909-1910
	A.83.157.62	Letters from Mary K. Craig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated Oct 1, 1912; addressed to Miss Elsa Mills. 	1912
	A.83.157.63	Letters from Mary K. Craig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 letters; 2 photocopies, one original. 	1914-1919
	A.83.157.64	Letter/Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveling through Europe; art & architecture. Author unknown. 	1910
	A.83.157.65	Margaret Wilman Journal	1970

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Margaret Wilman's typed and handwritten notes about class, events, members, and speakers. 	
	A.83.157.66	Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black composition notebook containing member attendance notes and notes over topics discussed such as Latin American and Mexico. Author Unknown. 	1906
	A.83.157.67	Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes and agenda for business meetings. One agenda mentions the plan of the class organization, "shall we continue" and the establishment of a memorial and a lecture fund. 	Undated
	A.83.157.68	Program Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon copies of program notes 	1931-1932
	A.83.157.69	Program Notes	1955
	A.83.157.70	Program Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwritten notes 	1958-1959
3	A.83.157.71	Mary K. Craig Biography Material	
	A.83.157.72	Board of Directors Yearbooks	1998-2004
	A.83.157.73	Board of Directors Yearbooks	2004-2010
	A.83.157.74	Board of Directors Yearbooks	2010-2015
	A.83.157.75	Mary K. Craig Family Information	
	A.83.157.76	Dallas Society Papers	1893-2008
	A.83.157.77	History of the Mary K. Craig Class	
	A.83.157.78	Mary K. Craig Hockaday History	2005-2016
	A.83.157.79	Diary of the Mary K. Craig Class Officers and Programs	1970-2018
	A.83.157.80	Lillian Tate's Notebook Diary, this is a transcribed version. The original handwritten version can be found in A. 83.157.4 (Box 1)	1926-1970
	A.83.157.81	Reproduced letters from Mary K. Craig Reproduced photograph of Wilcox Female College Ancestry information	
	A.83.157.82	Mary K. Craig Presentation (Hockaday)	2014
	A.83.157.83	Photograph of Lillian [...]TE Progress Chairmen Reports Blank contract forms	
4	A.83.157.84	Craig Class cassette tapes, VHS, CDs	1994-1996

5	A.83.157.85	Copies of the Dallas Morning News, articles written about speakers at the club meetings.	1883 1921-1928 1933-1937
	A.83.157.86	Board of Directors meeting minutes,	2003-2012
	A.83.157.87	Programs, articles, schedules, activities, and lists of members, meetings by year.	2007-2008 2009-2010 2011-2012
	A.83.157.88	Chairman of the Board Notebook, Carol Utkov 2012-2013. Contains lists of the officers and members for these years.	2012-2013
	A.83.157.89	Chairman of the Board Notebook, 2014-2015, Julie Noble.	2014-2015
	A.83.157.90	Dian Bumpas Program Chairman, Chairman report notebook. Contracts for speakers, activities,	2014-2015
	A.83.157.91	Linda Peavy Program Chairman Report,	2015-2016
	A.83.157.92	Mary K. Craig Class, speakers 2015-2016 notebook. Printed material booklets "History of Mary K. Craig Class" several copies.	2015-2016 1959, 1983, 1994, 1998-99 2001,2003
	A.83.157.93	Program Chairman Linda Peavy, Speakers 2016-2017	2016-2017
	A.83.157.94	Miscellaneous documents found in a loose folder. Composed of varies newspaper articles, calendars, paperwork, club activities, speakers, etc. A research paper on the club by CA Samantha Dodd is also in this folder (2014).	Dates range from the 1990's to the mid 2000's
6	A.83.157.95	A large white notebook titled, Mary K. Craig Class Founded in 1894. Histories, Programs, and Yearbooks.	
	A.83.157.96	A large purple notebook comprised of IRS letters, Dallas Morning News articles, obituaries, notes, bylaws and standing rules, officer history: 1990-2009. Gift agreement to the Dallas Historical Society in included in this notebook as well (1983).	