Collection Summary

Collection Title: Daughters of the American Revolution, Mohawk Chapter Records, 1785-2019

Creator: Daughters of the American Revolution, Mohawk Chapter

Abstract

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 by women who had strong patriotic feelings, but were frustrated by their exclusion from organizations allowing only men to honor their patriotic ancestors. Eligibility in this organization is open to any woman age eighteen and older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

The charter for the Mohawk Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was granted in April, 1895. Fifteen prominent women in Albany, New York began the organization. One of 126 chapters across New York State, the Mohawk Chapter NSDAR continues to be active in the Capital District and includes over seventy members.

This collection contains historical information, membership lists and yearbooks, correspondence, printed materials, a few photographs, subject files, and scrapbooks.

Quantity: 5.5 lin. ft., 9 boxes

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: Daughters of the American Revolution, Mohawk Chapter Archives, Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany, New York

Acquisition Information: Gift of the Mohawk Chapter, DAR

Processing Information: Processed by James Corsaro, July 2019, H. Cox, January 2020

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None
**Restrictions on Use:** Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing, prior to publication, from the Chief Librarian and Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210.

**Historical Note**

Founded in 1890 by Eugenia Washington, Ellen Walworth, Mary S. Lockwood, and Mary Desha, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) was organized due to nationwide increased patriotic feelings and interest in the early history of America. Since women were excluded from the male-only patriotic organizations of the day, the NSDAR gave women the opportunity to express their own patriotism and ancestral pride as well. Their objectives were, and continue to be, historical, education, and patriotic, encouraging members to take pride in their ancestors and their country, and foster a sense of patriotism in others by educating them about United States history.

As with other organizations during this time, the NSDAR was not initially open to all women who had patriotic ancestors. This was corrected later, and today the society opens its doors to “any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.” The NSDAR is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and currently includes 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in all fifty states, Washington, D.C., and International.

The Mohawk Chapter NSDAR was chartered in April 1895, and was named for the Mohawk tribe. Organized by fifteen of the most prominent women in Albany, New York, Mrs. William Croswell Doane was the first regent. The Chapter’s third regent, Mrs. Mary Margarett Fryer Manning, was later elected as the fifth president general of NSDAR, where she was appointed by President McKinley as commissioner of the Paris Exposition of 1900. In this role, she represented both the United States and NSDAR.

One of 126 chapters across New York State, the Mohawk Chapter NSDAR has over seventy members, primarily from Albany County and the greater Capital District. The Chapter holds the same objectives as the national organization, and the Mohawk Chapter has been very involved in many historic events and anniversary celebrations over the years. Members mark the graves of soldiers and that of President Chester A. Arthur, commemorate the Battle of Saratoga, contribute to a variety of patriotic and historic organizations, volunteer widely in the local community, and honor community members who represent the objectives of their organization.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Mohawk Chapter Daughter of the American Revolution Records consists primarily of items related to the Mohawk Chapter, but also includes some information regarding the National Chapter. Although the collection spans from 1785-2019, the bulk of the records are from the 1890s-1990s. Series include histories and related materials, memberships and yearbooks, correspondence, printed materials, photographs, subject files, and scrapbooks.
Histories and Related Materials, 1902-2016, includes historical information and early documents of the Mohawk Chapter NSDAR.

Memberships and Yearbooks, 1895-2019, consists of membership lists containing both information on current members, but also of those who transferred or died during the year. Yearbooks contain various information including names of past Regents names of officers, committees, programs for meetings, and names of members.

Correspondence, 1895-1921, is comprised primarily of a file of correspondence formerly laid in a volume labeled, “Years of interesting correspondence, (early).” The correspondence has been removed from the binder and put into folders and is arranged in chronological order.

Printed Materials, 1785-1995, contains such materials as receipts, dance cards, and woodcut prints.

Photographs, 1900-1995, holds a few photographs of the Jan Mabee House in Rotterdam Junction, New York, and a single photograph of Ellen Hardin Walworth.

Subject Files, 1789-1998, encompasses a group of miscellaneous files of correspondence, printed items, lists, memoranda and other items. Each folder has a brief description. The files often had a mixture of subjects and these files have been refiled to create a more coherent access to the subjects covered. The folders are not in chronological or alphabetical order.

Scrapbooks, 1895-2000, contains several, mainly oversize, volumes of scrapbooks in the Chapter archives. The scrapbooks include newspaper articles about the members and events of the Chapter and the DAR generally as well correspondence, photographs and other material. Brief descriptions of each scrapbook are found below in the container list.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Container List</th>
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<td><strong>Box 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Histories and Related Materials, 1902-2016</strong></td>
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Published Works:


Denise Doring Van Buren and Patrice Powley Birner, *Daughters of the Empire State, Fifty Leaders who shaped the DAR legacy in New York*, June 2016

Folder 1: Manuscript Histories, 1913-1945, Undated

Report of the Historian, Mohawk Chapter, DAR, 1913-1914, Amy Chester Merrick, Chapter Historian

Armistice after the War of the American Revolution, The Pattern set for World War I, by Lydia Hammond Gale, Past Chapter Historian, undated
Radio script, by F.M.C., entitled Armistice after the War of the American Revolution, undated

Columbus Day broadcast, Oct. 12, 1945, sponsored by the Mohawk Chapter, DAR

Folder 2: Manuscript Histories, 1949-1995

The Early History of the Mohawk Chapter, DAR, by Eva M. Gardner, Albany, NY, Jan. 1969, 3 copies

Memories of Mohawk, Mrs. Floyd Milbank and Miss Elsa Kelp, 1995

This is the Record, by Ruth (Mrs. James G.) Park, 1949, a defense of the good works of the DAR

Folder 3: (removed from binder) Mohawk Chapter History from the New York DAR Annual Yearbooks and Anniversary Histories, “This document captures all of the pertinent Mohawk history from the NYSDAR publications in one document,” February 2019.

Folder 4: DAR Constitution, By-Laws, and Manuals, 1902-1987

Constitution and By-Laws of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, 1914; 1917

Meet the DAR, 1973

Know the DAR, 1980 issue and 1987 issue

What the Daughters Do, 20th ed., 1957


Catalogue of Loan Exhibition at Historical and Art Society, 176 State St., Albany NY, 1902

Folder 5: Record of Relics, Books, Historic Woods &c, Property of Mohawk Chapter, D.A.R., Albany, NY, 1904-1907, 1941-1942. This volume lists books donated to the Chapter with the book title and donor’s name; list of miscellaneous gifts including prints, pieces of brick, marble, cannonball, bullets, etc.; list of pieces of wood from items of historical interest with donor’s names; list of autographs donated; list of historical documents donated. (It should be noted that the items listed in this book are not found in this collection.)

Folder 6: An essay, “Bessie Woolworth Leonard: An Appreciation.” This is a 3 page essay on the life of Bessie Woolworth Leonard (Mrs. Edgar C. Leonard), who died in Paris, France, June 26, 1925; she was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 10, 1861. She was Regent of the Mohawk Chapter and held every office in the Chapter. She was very involved with the arts and in particular bookplate design and her husband donated her collection of over 650 bookplates to the New York State Library. The essay was written by Cornelia Eames Anthony, Nov. 1925. (This essay is in very fragile condition; a photocopy has been made which must be used in place of the original.)
**Memberships and Yearbooks, 1895-2019**

Folder 7: Lists of deceased members, life members, members who resigned, list of charter members of the chapter and officers of the chapter, 1895-1922. Information in this volume includes member’s name, place of residence, husband’s name, if married, date of decease or transfer, ancestors’ names.

Folder 8: Membership lists of transferred and deceased members, 1903-1923. Information in this volume includes member’s name, place of residence, husband’s name, if married, date of decease or transfer, ancestors’ names.

**Box 2**

Folder 1: Membership list with names of members with their national membership number, also includes transfers, deceased and resignations, 1895-1931


**Correspondence, 1895-1921**

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1895-1896, with letters to and from the Regent and Secretary of the Chapter and others regarding topics such as collecting historic woods, Fourth of July celebrations, celebrating anniversary of Battle of Lexington with the local chapter of the SAR and other subjects.

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1897-1898, including letters from the Philip Livingston Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), also from Mrs. Erastus Corning, Harriet L.P. Rice and others concerning historic woods, invitation to lecture, and other topics.

Folder 9: Correspondence, 1899-1900, including letters from Gertrude B. Darwin, Chapter Secretary, also from Marcus T. Reynolds, also letters from New York State Regent and from the National Board of the DAR regarding annual reports and elections.

Folder 10: Correspondence, 1901-1903, including from Caroline Ten Eyck, Secretary of the Chapter, Mrs. Wm. B. Van Rensselaer, Hugh Hastings, C.F. Bridge, Secretary and William H. Griffith, of the SAR and others about invitations to events, historic woods, gifts of historical pictures, and a resolution from the national DAR Convention.
Folder 11: Correspondence, 1904-1905, includes a letter from the Albany Institute regarding use of a room by the DAR; correspondence of the Chapter Secretary, a sympathy note on the death of the Chapter Regent and other topics.

Box 3

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1906-1907, including a letter donating $365 to the Albany Institute; topics including donation of historic woods, care by the Chapter of their “Real Daughters;” letters from the wife of Governor Hughes, invitations to patriotic events.

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1907. Regards the donation by the Mohawk Chapter of historical prints to the White House, Library of Congress, Peabody Institute, Harvard University and other institutions. The correspondence consists of letters from those institutions acknowledging receipt of the historical prints from the Chapter.

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1908, 1913, 1918-1919, 1921. Invitation, thank you note, letter from New York State Library regarding DAR Lineage Books, letter from Catherine B. Rankin of Cherry Hill.

Folders 4-5: Correspondence, undated. These folders include invitations, thank you notes, letter accepting her election as Regent of the Chapter from Anna Morton, spouse of the Governor, correspondence from the Chapter Secretary, regrets about non-attendance at meetings, letter to the Secretary of the King of Great Britain that the King cannot comply with a request for an autograph, historic woods, resignations from the Chapter, correspondence of Bessie Woolworth Leonard regarding reading of a historical paper at her home, notices of deaths of members.

Folder 6: Correspondence and miscellaneous printed items 1905, undated. This is a file chiefly of printed correspondence to the Chapter the National and State DAR and others. Items include a program card for a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Charles Evans Hughes, letter from a photographer offering a photo of a monument in Paris of Lafayette given to France when Mrs. Daniel Manning was giving an address, printed invitations, a list of officers of the national DAR (undated), DAR resolution regarding wearing of Recognition Pin, printed advertisement for a lecture on the American Revolution by William W. Ellsworth; a card requesting DAR members to send cards, etc. to Japanese wounded soldiers (1905); a Chapter resolution to Congress to print the records of the Continental Congress; resolution to New York State Legislature regarding commemoration by New York State of the Federal Constitution and other items.

Printed Materials, 1785-1995

Folder 7: Broadside and Newspaper, undated, 1799.

Broadside: Rules to be observed by Persons transacting Business with the Bank of Albany with printed signature of G.W.V. Schaick, Cashier.

Newspaper page: Supplement to the Albany Gazette, Monday, June 10, 1799. This is a page of advertisements printed by the Albany Gazette, including patent medicines for sale, advertisements for
the Trinity School in Albany and the Montreal Boarding School for Young Ladies in Lansingburgh, stage schedules, Nehemiah Bassett, Watchmaker; and sale of a 10 year old “Negro Boy” for a term of 14 years after which he will go free; “His master is forced to dispose of him, only because the little fellow cannot please every person in the house,” price 60 pounds.


Folder 9: Printed receipts, 1798-1838.

Receipt to John Pruyn, for 1 dozen hairbrushes bought from John Brinckerhoff & Co., Albany, NY April 23, 1808. Brinckerhoff & Co. sold “a general assortment of Ironmongery, Cutlery, Saddlery, and Hardware.”

Receipt to Jeremiah Van Rensselaer from Loring Andrews for subscription to the *Albany Sentinel* for 1 year, July 1798-July 1799, 3 dollars, Albany, July 6, 1799.

Receipt to Mr. Wendell, from Websters & Skinner for 6 dozen “Almanacks.” undated, circa 180?

Receipt to Elmendorph for Mr. Harding from the Car Neptune for passage from Albany to New York of a trunk, from Joseph Fay (?) of the Albany Chronicle, Albany, April 23, 1798.

Notice to owner of property on Chapel Street to repair pavement in front of the property by Aug. 7, 1838 or be fined, John McDowall, City Superintendent, Aug. 2, 1838.

Folder 10: Dance Tickets, 1785-1814.


Dance invitation to Miss. J. Sanders to the Albany Dancing Assembly, Albany, 1785.

Invitation: “Mrs. Clinton requests the favor of Miss (?) Sanders Company on Tuesday Evening...1826.

Invitation to Miss Sanders for a ball at Mr. Denniston’s Tavern, undated.

Invitation to Mr. Elmendorf from the Candid Society to be at Hilton’s Inn, Albany, Nov. 26, 1785

Invitation to Miss Van Rensselear, to the Dancing Assembly, Albany, 1791

Folder 11: Prints published by Alonzo Chappel of Revolutionary War scenes, published in circa 1858-1866, 7 prints.

Folder 12: Prints of portraits, undated: Caleb Heathcote, Cadwallader Colden, portraits of American Revolutionary generals on one print, portraits of early New York state political and military leaders on one print; tomb of General Washington at Mount Vernon.

Folder 13: Prints of New York City views, undated. 11 prints, of City Hall, Harlem River, Wall St., etc.
Folder 14: Prints of the Pilgrims and Puritans in Massachusetts, undated. 11 prints.

Folder 15: Prints of Revolutionary War scenes at Boston, Lexington, Concord, etc., undated. 13 prints.

Folder 16: Prints of views of Washington, D.C., the Capital, undated. 4 prints.

Folder 17: Views of Niagara Falls, Niagara River and Fort Niagara, undated. 4 prints

Folder 18: Prints of views of places in New York State, undated. Washington’s headquarters at Newburgh; Eagle Hotel, Albany; View of Cohoes Falls; Ruins of Fort Ticonderoga; Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown; monument at Lake George regarding Sir William Johnson victory in 1755; Great Seal of the Province of New York. 8 prints.

Folder 19: Prints of views of colonial events in Pennsylvania, undated. 4 prints.

Folder 20: Prints of Columbus and DeSoto, undated. 9 prints.

Folder 21: Prints of views of colonial events in Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia, undated. 8 prints.

Folder 22: Prints of Native Americans, battle at Mobile Bay, colonial and Revolutionary War scenes, undated.

Folder 23: List of views in the Byington Collection, Mohawk Chapter, undated. This is an undated handwritten list of the prints of many, possibly most of those found in Folders above.

Folder 24: Seasoned with Time, a cookbook compiled for the Mohawk Chapter by Mrs. Thomas R. Burns and Mrs. Richard L. Relation, undated.


75th Anniversary, Mohawk Chapter, ...January 13, 1970, the luncheon program with historical information about the Chapter.

100th Anniversary, Mohawk Chapter...May 6, 1995, the program with historical information about the Chapter.

Windows in the Chapel, a 6 p. flyer about the memorial windows in the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, PA.


Clipping, Chapter helping with preservation of Battle of Saratoga battlefield, 1923

Clipping, 75th Anniversary of the Chapter, 1970
Certificate of Appreciation to Mohawk Chapter, for support of wallpaper for New York State Room, undated.

Invitation to the celebration of the Chapter’s 75th Anniversary.

Negative photo of Mrs. Daniel Manning (photo appears in the 75th Anniversary clipping noted above).

Flash drive containing: A dance ticket and the “digital content for the first two scrapbooks.”

**Photographs, 1900-1995**

Folder 27: Photograph in a small frame of Ellen Hardin Walworth, circa 1900. Walworth was Regent of the Mohawk Chapter.


Folder of newspaper articles and photographs of the Jan Mabee House in Rotterdam Junction, New York. The article, 1995, is about the donation of the house by George Franchere to the Schenectady County Historical Society. There are 11 black and white photographs (8” x 10”) with the article. Also an article by William Brodie titled, “The Oldest House in New York State,” published in the Brooklyn Central Magazine, accompanying a letter from Brodie to Mr. Penn, March 3, 1953.

**Box 4**

**Subject Files, 1789-1998**


Folder 2: Fort Crailo, 1899-1906. This is file concerning the preservation of Fort Crailo, (The Yankee Doodle House). The file includes: a printed flyer “Save the Yankee Doodle House,” about a resolution of the NSDAR to purchase Fort Crailo for the Mohawk Chapter, April 1899; an article about saving Fort Crailo in Leslie’s Weekly, Jan. 1899; a printed letter to Chapter members requesting donations for Fort Crailo, March 1900; a file of correspondence to Mrs. Clifford Gregory making donations to the Fort Crailo fund; two letters from Susan DeLancey Van Rensselaer Strong (Mrs. Allen Strong) about the condition of Crailo, 1905, 1906. (Mrs. Strong donated Crailo to the State of New York), a few handwritten notes about the condition of Fort Crailo (in 1906?).

Folder 3: George Washington in Connecticut, 1789. Manuscript copy and typed copy of a letter of Washington to a gentleman in Oxbridge, CT, Hartford, CT, November 8, 1789, regarding gifts to the gentleman’s daughter as a thank you and two photographs of the house and room in which Washington stayed in Oxbridge, CT.
Folder 4: Town of Colonie Historic Tour, 1970. An 8 p. tour guide and map with brief descriptions of the historic sites on the tour; prepared for the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Colonie, 1895-1970.

Folder 5: Booklets, 1897, 1990. 1) *I Pledge Allegiance*, by June Swanson, 1990, a children’s book about American history and particularly the Pledge. 2) *Ye History of St. Ann’s Church in Ye City of Amsterdam, N.Y. And...Queen Anne’s Chapel at Fort Hunter...1712-1897*, a history illustrated with photos, circa 1897.

Folder 6: DAR patriotic literature, 1972, undated. This is a file of flyers and pamphlets published by DAR for patriotic purposes, including pamphlets about the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, Pledge of Allegiance, the Flag Code, flyer “The Citizen’s Responsibility,” a bookmark about Constitution Week, a card with the Preamble of the Constitution, a flyer “DAR Good Citizen;” and song sheet “A” for America, by Rolande Y. Schade, 1972.

Folder 7: Naturalization, 1980. Includes correspondence Mrs. Frederick W. Moore, Chapter Regent with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service with the INS requesting copies of the DAR Manual and Flag Code and a copy of “The Flag of the United States, Symbol of our Republic” by Mabel A. Downey, undated, published by the NSDAR.

Folder 8: Dunn Genealogy, circa 1960. A typed genealogy of the Dunn family genealogy descended from Joshua, Christopher and Josiah Dunn, who came from England in latter part of the 17th Century.

Folder 9: Graves of Revolutionary Soldiers and Wives buried in Albany County, 1932. Compiled by the Chapter; records from the towns of Western Albany County, NY.

Folder 10: Mrs. Daniel Manning, undated. Newspaper photograph and enlarged reproduction of the photo and a brief obituary about her and her tenure as 5th President General of the NSDAR.


Folder 13: Background information about a painting of Sir William Johnson and Indian Chiefs of the Six Nations loaned to the Albany Institute, including biographical information about the painter Edward Lamson Henry, undated.

addressed to Mrs. Eva M. Gardner from the Kate Duncan DAR School thanking the Mohawk Chapter for a gift and a postcard with a view of the interior of the DAR Museum.

Folder 15: Miscellaneous clippings, 1960-1998. Various DAR activities and events, including some obituaries of DAR members, as well as clippings regarding the Marian Anderson performance controversy.


Folder 17: Reports and letters, 1918-1920. Regarding the Mohawk Chapter’s War Work during World War I, particularly the War Work of Mrs. Charles Whitman, Governor’s wife and Regent of Mohawk Chapter, 1918-1919. Circular letter from Florence S.B. Menges to New York state chapter regents to submit reports of war services and history of their chapter, Dec. 1920.


Folder 23: Reports, 1951. Report of a delegate to the state conference at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York, 1951; interesting remark in the report “Whitaker Chambers gave the address and tho’ I cannot explain it, I have doubt of his integrity and sincerity.“


**Scrapbooks, 1895-2000**

**Box 5**
These are the two earliest scrapbooks of the Chapter. These scrapbooks are in very fragile condition due to very brittle paper and should be handled carefully.

Folder 1: Scrapbooks, 1895-1901.

The 1895-1901 scrapbook includes meeting minutes published in newspapers, news of election of officers, a typed story about Jane McCrea, obituaries of members, a typed report of the DAR Convention in Poughkeepsie, a report of the state DAR, 1907; letter dated 1922 related to citizenship for immigrants; a hymn “For Home and Country;” a list of officers, committees, etc. of the national DAR, 1902; a broadside about the Historic Frame for Charter of the Mohawk Chapter, 1899; a story about Perry’s flagship, the “Lawrence.”


The scrapbook dated 1905-1909, 1917, 1922-1936 contains meeting minutes published in newspapers, news of election of officers, historical article written by DAR members, cards for recitals, etc., programs, news of state and national DAR, obituaries of deceased members, news of events regarding historical places in U.S., postcards.

Box 6

Folder 1: Scrapbooks, 1953. Press book. (removed from binder)


Box 7

Scrapbooks, 1943-1959. News of DAR elections, meetings, conventions, musicales, etc. A few original photos of DAR women and many newspaper photos; Honor Roll certificates, proclamation of Mayor E. Corning, 1960, for Constitution Week, invitation to Mohawk Chapter to march in Hudson-Champlain Celebration parade, 1959.

Scrapbooks, 1962-1966. News of DAR elections, meetings, news about Constitution Day including proclamations by Mayor E. Corning, photographs of DAR women at events, program of Memorial Service for DAR members who died during the year, a few letters, History Month clippings from Times-Union, news about citizenship naturalization events.


Volume labeled, “Years of interesting correspondence, (early).” Correspondence book from which above correspondence was removed.

Box 8


C

Scrapbooks, 1976-1982. Many clippings about DAR Mohawk events, particularly award ceremonies for Good Citizen Awards, programs of dinners, program of 88th Anniversary meeting, program of luncheon for 81st Anniversary of chapter.

Scrapbooks, 1978-1981. This is mainly a scrapbook of color photographs. The photos are of groups of women, of a cellist and harpist, the Ten Broeck Mansion, of visitors at Ten Broeck Mansion in the winter, several photos of a party of people in the summer at Kathy Conner’s pool, a few clippings, photos of two children (new members of the Rensselaer Chapter, DAR), several photos of identified people from various local DAR chapters at an event, also identified people at a tea at the Ten Broeck mansion, 1980.

Box 9


