

Doylestown Nature Club records

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**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Faith
Charlton through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden
Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

Last updated on November 19, 2013.

Doylestown Historical Society

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Summary Information

Repository	Doylestown Historical Society
Creator	Doylestown Nature Club
Title	Doylestown Nature Club records
Call number	11
Date [bulk]	1956-2010
Date [inclusive]	1912-2010
Extent	3 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Doylestown Nature Club (Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania), still in existence as of 2013, was organized in 1907 by Mrs. Irvin Megargee James. Federated in 1914, and incorporated in 1970, its purpose is "to provide a love of nature; to protect birds, animals and wildflowers from ruthless destruction; to conserve our natural resources; to beautify the community; and to educate in the field of nature." The Doylestown Nature Club records, 1912-2010 (bulk 1956-2010), consist of various records that document the history of the Club, including minutes, newsletters, member booklets and directories, some financial records, a significant amount of ephemera such as programs and newspaper clippings, and photographs relating to Club-sponsored activities and events.</p>

Biography/History

The Doylestown Nature Club (Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania), still in existence as of 2013, was organized in 1907 by Mrs. Irvin Megargee James (who served as its president until 1932). It was federated in 1914, and incorporated in 1970. Prominent Doylestown resident Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), who was closely affiliated with the Nature Club, renovated a 1775 stone farmhouse located on his Fonthill property for the Club's use in 1917.

The Club's purpose is: "to provide a love of nature; to protect birds, animals and wildflowers from ruthless destruction; to conserve our natural resources; to beautify the community; and to educate in the field of nature." As stated in its articles of incorporation, the Club's objectives may "also extend to community beautification, nature education, ecological conservation and environmental concerns." The Club has been involved in community beautification and revitalization efforts. For example, during the 1960s, along with other community organizations, the Club successfully worked with the Community Activities Council of Doylestown to raise money and sponsor various projects for town improvements.

The Doylestown Nature Club continues to be very active. It sponsors various outdoor activities, flower shows, lectures, panel discussions, workshops, banquets, and bazaars. It is also involved in community service such its annual Plant Exchange program that began in 1920. The Club also provides scholarships to students attending Delaware Valley Community College (Doylestown, Pa.), Temple University's Ambler Campus, and Central Bucks High School.

Bibliography:

Doylestown Nature Club. Accessed July 25, 2013. <http://www.doylestownnatureclub.com/index.html>

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of various records that document the history of the Doylestown Nature Club, including minutes, newsletters, member booklets and directories, some financial records, a significant amount of ephemera such as programs and newspaper clippings, and photographs relating to Club-sponsored activities and events. Specifically, the collection includes the following:

- several scrapbooks and binders that include photographs of club events, articles, clippings, and programs with some including minutes and financial records, 1979-2009 (incomplete)
- minutes, 1956-1967, 1998-2004, 1989-1990
- 6 folders of Club newsletters, 1967-2009 (newsletters from 2006-2010 are stored on a disc)
- member booklets and directories, 1956-2010 (incomplete) (some recent directories are stored on a disc)
- several folders containing miscellaneous photographs and clippings

- folder on the Village Fair, 1990
- 2 folders with Club bazaars press clippings, 1970-1984
- folder with beautification information
- an oversize photograph of "Bird Guardians" play, 1915
- 100th anniversary tile, 2007
- portrait of Marie James Kister, former president
- framed sign, 1939
- one unframed sign that reads "Marie James Kister, Collection of Nature Club Books."

Administrative Information

Doylestown Historical Society

Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Faith Charlton through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.

Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Doylestown Historical Society for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Gift of Doylestown Nature Club, 2010.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact Doylestown Historical Society directly for more information.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials Note

Bucks County Historical Society: Doylestown Nature Club records, 1866-1958 (bulk 1907-1958), MSC 317.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Doylestown Nature Club

Geographic Name(s)

- Bucks County (Pa.)
- Doylestown (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Community development
- Environmentalism
- Gardening--Societies, etc.
- Nature club
- Women--Societies and clubs