

The Marjorie MacCracken Collection

Repository

Dutchess County Historical Society
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Date Completed

2012 December 27

Creators

Marjorie MacCracken

Extent

2 linear ft.

Dates

Inclusive: 1928 - 1966

Bulk: 1946 – 1961

Conditions Governing Access

No Restrictions

Languages

English

Scope and Content

The collection generally features miscellaneous documentation concerning the history and administration of the Lincoln Center. Included are membership list, detailed notes, some correspondence, historical narratives and documentation of advocacy campaigns. The original

order of the material was preserved and the sporadic organization was deemed to be unproblematic due to the small size of the collections and detail of description.

Historical Note

Marjorie MacCracken, wife of Vassar College Historian Henry N. MacCracken was a founder and Honorary President of the Lincoln Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. The Lincoln Center was started in 1917 when a small group of Vassar students called for a place to perform social work for the community while obtaining their degree. The students drew the support of Marjorie MacCracken who helped them open a one-room children play group on Church Street and Jefferson Street. The Center emerged as a mixed public-private organization funded both by the city and by Vassar College. It continued to serve as a practicum for Vassar students and served the community during the 1918 influenza epidemic. Mrs. MacCracken became President of the Center in 1922, where she directed the Center's expansion and use of the former Riverview Academy building, which was owned by the city. The Lincoln Center served the community during the Great Depression and the demographic shift of the Great Migration. In 1936 the Center, with the help of WPA funding, directed the construction of a community hall which was named the Marjorie Dodd MacCracken Gymnasium. The Center seems to have suffered during the Second World War and underwent financial difficulties during the late 1940s. The Center provided youth programs, clubs, and socials for children and classes and clinics for adults and young adults. Mrs. MacCracken seems to have been closely involved with the Gay Nineties musical club for the elderly through 1961. The center disbanded in 1961 and many of its services were taken over by the Neighborhood Service Organization. The old Riverview Academy building was destroyed by arson in 1979.

Provenance

The Collection was donated to the Dutchess County Historical Society by Maisry MacCracken in 1998.

Subject Headings

Lincoln Center; Civic organizations; Older people; Riverview Academy; Great Migration; Influenza; Great Depression; Arterial project; Urban renewal

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Container List

Box 1

File	Contents	Date
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File 1	Letter from Sam J. Kalloch to Marjorie MacCracken concerning Lincoln Center 40 th anniversary party	1956 April 27
File 2	Lincoln Center clippings	1966
File 3	Photographic prints [includes Eleanor Roosevelt visit]	1949 – 1951
File 4	Gay Nineties Club	1951 – 1964
File 5	Gay Nineties Club	1951 – 1969
File 6	Urban renewal	1960 – 1961
File 7	Christian citizenship	circa 1960
File 8	Gay Nineties Club – Paid bills and finance reports	1961 – 1962
File 9	Gay Nineties Club – Financial reports	1957 – 1960
File 10	Agenda: Lincoln Center Board of Directors February Meeting	1961
File 11	Lincoln Center Women’s Auxiliary Membership List	1960 – 1961
File 12	Lincoln Center November Bulletin	undated
File 13	Certificate of recognition and appreciation to Mrs. Henry Nobel MacCracken	1960
File 14	Vassar Alumnae Magazine	1956 June
File 15	Poughkeepsie Neighborhood Service Organization – Gay Nineties Club Membership List	1964 – 1965
File 16	The Story of Lincoln Center (2 copies)	undated
File 17	Meeting notebook	circa 1963
File 18	Lincoln Center Annual Dinner – Program	1946 May 27
File 19	Lincoln Center – envelopes (14 copies)	undated
File 20	“This is Our Story” Lincoln Center, Poughkeepsie, New York	circa 1948
File 21	Lincoln Center – Annual Report	1948 – 1949
File 22	Clippings	1946 – 1954
File 23	Resume of the Relocation of Families Living in the Arterial By-Pass	1961
File 24	Certificate of Appreciation presented to Marjorie MacCracken	undated
File 25	Lincoln Center brochure: “What Lincoln Center Does...”	circa 1928

Box 2

File	Contents	Date
File 1	“What Lincoln Center Means to Me,” by Joseph McPhee, age 12	undated
File 2	Minutes of the June Meeting of Lincoln Center Board of Directors	1961 June 20
File 3	Clippings with envelope	1954 – 1974
File 4	Items found in envelope labeled “Old Folks Verse”	1959
File 5	Housing Conditions Survey and attached material	undated
File 6	Clippings	undated
File 7	Active Gay Nineties Members	1956 October 10

File 8	Supplement to Gay Nineties List	undated
File 9	Gay Nineties Club, excerpt from notebook with member list	1952 – 1954
File 10	Correspondence to members	1954
File 11	Club 60 [?] note	undated
File 12	The Gay Nineties – detailed notes	undated
File 13	Lincoln Center Women’s Auxiliary Membership List	1961 – 1962
File 14	Letter to the Editor of the <i>Poughkeepsie Journal</i> by Marjorie D. MacCracken concerning evictions of the arterial project	1961 January 30
File 15	“The Belfry,” United Church of Christ Bulletins (Congregational)	1961
File 16	Gay Nineties Members	undated
File 17	Active Gay Nineties Members	1955 July 15
File 18	Gay Nineties Members and attached notes	undated

Box 3

File	Contents	Date
Item 1	Document box than contained files 1 – 9 of box 1	undated
Item 2	Document box than contained files 10 – 25 of box 1 and files 1-18 of box 2, labeled “Christmas Cards”	undated