

Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the County of Lincoln fonds

1897-1965, n.d.

RG 51

Brock University Archives

- Creator:** Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the County of Lincoln
- Extent:** 25 cm of textual records (2 small boxes)
- Abstract:** Fonds contains material about the activities of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) of the County of Lincoln. This includes material about the management of Alexandra Hall, a boarding house for young women in St. Catharines that the WCTU was involved in operating. Most of the material consists of minute books. Loose papers from the minute books were removed and filed separately. These materials include programmes, directories, correspondence and news clippings.
- Materials:** Minute books, programmes, directories, correspondence, and news clippings.
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Chantal Cameron
- Last updated:** September 2018

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Preferred citation: The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the County of Lincoln fonds, 1897-1965, n.d., Brock University Archives, Brock University.

Acquisition info.: Fonds was in the possession of Mrs. James Nelson of St. Catharines, Ont., for an unknown period of time. Fonds was received in the archives through Professor Pat Dirks.

Administrative history:

The first Canadian chapter of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was opened in Ontario in Picton, Prince Edward County, in 1874. The Union promoted abstinence from alcohol, believing that this would eliminate the problems that alcohol caused families and society. The Union also recognized that social reform required that women have the ability to influence government policy. The WCTU became one of the first women's rights movements in Canada by supporting the enfranchisement of women. The group also endorsed social reforms to address problems such as poverty and child labour.

A chapter of the WCTU for Lincoln and Welland Counties was established before 1900, becoming the WCTU of Lincoln County sometime after 1908. One of the major undertakings of the group was the purchase and operation of Alexandra Hall, a boarding house for women on Ontario St. in St. Catharines. Such accommodation was lacking at the time, and local WCTU members were concerned for the physical safety and moral well-being of young women who were new to the city. In 1911, a fundraising campaign was begun to purchase a property, followed by the purchase of Alexandra Hall the following year. The intent was to "provide a home for young women where they may enjoy the comforts and conveniences of home life which they would otherwise be without, and generally Christian and temperance work for women". It was opened on June 18, 1912 and proved to be much in demand. More rooms were added in 1914, and the home eventually accommodated 32 residents. Over time, demand for this type of housing diminished and Alexandra Hall closed in 1977.

Scope and content:

Fonds contains material about the activities of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the County of Lincoln. This includes material about the management of Alexandra Hall, a boarding house for young women in St. Catharines that the WCTU was involved in operating. Most of the material consists of minute books. Loose papers from the minute books were removed and filed separately. These materials include programmes, directories, correspondence, news clippings, an annual report, and handwritten notes.

Organization:

The fonds was organized into two series:

Series I: Minute books, 1897-1965.

Series II: Loose Papers, 1903-1947, n.d.

Inventory:**Series I: Minutes, 1897-1965.**

- 1.1 Minute book, 1897-1909, 1926. Contains minutes from September 28, 1897 to March 25, 1909, with a couple of entries on the very last pages of the book dated April to June 1926. Includes minutes of the executive committees and the Conventions of the WCTU for Lincoln and Welland Counties. The last few pages are dated 1926 and contain minutes of regular monthly meetings of the Board of Alexandra Hall.
- 1.2 Minute book, 1913-1965. Contains minutes of annual meetings for the election of members to the Board of Management of Alexandra Hall, and other special meetings. The entries concern the operations and management of Alexandra Hall, a home for women in St. Catharines. Also contains some financial statements. Several news clippings are pasted in the book.
- 1.3 Minute book, 1915-1925. Contains minutes from April 22, 1915 to November 27, 1925. Includes minutes of regular meetings, annual meetings, executive meetings, and special meetings. Some loose pages of minutes are included (January 24 and 26, 1922).
- 1.4 Minute book, 1915-1929. Contains minutes from June 25, 1915 to April 13, 1929. Includes minutes of the Lincoln County Executive and the WCTU Lincoln County Annual Convention. Some material is pasted in the book, including programmes of the 1925 and 1928 Annual Conventions and a directory for 1925-1926.
- 1.5 Minute book, 1916-1926. The inside cover reads "Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Alexandra Hall". Contains minutes from December 14, 1916 to June 1926.
- 1.6 Minute book, 1925-1932. Contains minutes from January 29, 1925 to October 29, 1932. Includes minutes of regular monthly meetings, annual meetings and executive meetings.
- 1.7 Minute book, 1926-1933. Contains minutes from September 1926 to November 1, 1933. Includes minutes of regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors of Alexandra Hall.
- 1.8 Minute book, 1929-1935. Contains minutes from June 19, 1929 to June 1935. Includes minutes of annual conventions of the WCTU of the County of Lincoln and executive

meetings. Pasted in the book are programmes of some annual conventions (1930-1933) and some news clippings.

- 1.9 Minute book, 1936-1945. Contains minutes from March 28, 1936 to May 31, 1945. Includes minutes of executive meetings and annual conventions. Some news clippings are pasted in the book.
- 1.10 Minute book, 1936-1940. Contains minutes from June 25, 1936 to May 30, 1940. Includes minutes of regular monthly meetings of the WCTU, some executive meetings and annual reports.
- 1.11 Minute book, 1944-1952. Contains minutes from October 26, 1944 to September 28, 1952. Includes minutes of regular, annual, and executive meetings of the WCTU.

Series II: Loose Papers, 1903-1947, n.d.

- 2.1 Convention Programmes, 1903-1934. Contains programmes of the WCTU of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland (1903, 1906) and the County of Lincoln (1923-1934, non-inclusive). Includes a convention call for the 53rd annual meeting in 1930.
- 2.2 Directories, 1915-1947. Contains Lincoln County WCTU directories.
- 2.3 Correspondence, 1908-1931. Contains mostly correspondence sent by the Lincoln County WCTU, including letters to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Robert Borden.
- 2.4 Resolutions, 1933-1941, n.d.
- 2.5 News clippings, n.d.
- 2.6 Annual report, 1935. Contains a typewritten annual report.
- 2.7 Notes, 1931-1935, n.d. Contains handwritten notes including a list of Supts. of Departments, notes from a “mothers” meeting, and notes from a regular and executive meeting.