



**FINDING AID TO  
THE INDIANA EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS  
ASSOCIATION RECORDS, 1953-2015**

**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
504 West State Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
(765) 494-2839**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

© 2015 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.  
Processed by: Virginia Pleasant, March 30, 2015

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Indiana Extension Homemakers Association, 1913-
<b>Title</b>	Indiana Extension Homemakers records
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSP 196
<b>Date Span</b>	1953-2015
<b>Abstract</b>	The collection includes papers, publications, artifacts, and a scrapbook which document the history and activities of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association, an educational and social group for homemakers in Indiana.
<b>Extent</b>	1.25 cubic feet (3 mss. boxes, 1 flat box)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Virginia Pleasant
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Donated by Barb Keyes and Jan Harlow, April 15, 2013; Donation by Barb Keyes, November 26, 2013; Donation by Barb Keyes, August 25, 2014.
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20140415; 20131126; 20140825
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSP 196, Indiana Extension Homemakers records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Purdue University per deed of gift
<b>Related Materials Information:</b>	Vermillion Homemakers Home Demonstration Club records  MSF 138, Lella Gaddis papers  MSF 3, Eva Goble papers

Eva Goble Oral History, parts 1 and 2

MSF 265, Virginia Claypool Meredith papers

MSF 469, Mary Louise Foster papers

UA 14.13.01 College of Agriculture, Cooperative  
Extension Service records

College of Agriculture, Extension reports

*Memories of Hoosier Homemakers*, Indiana Extension  
Homemakers Association

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Organizations**

Indiana Extension Homemakers Association  
Indiana Extension Homemakers Chorus

### **Topics**

Women's clubs  
Women—history.  
Women's Archives at Purdue University

### **Form and Genre Types**

Artifacts  
Papers  
Publications  
Scrapbooks

### **Occupations**

Homemakers.  
Women—Education.

## History of Indiana Extension Homemakers Association

The Indiana Extension Homemakers Association (IEHA) began in 1913 as a social and educational organization for women. Before changing to their current name in the 1960s, the group(s) were also referred to as Home Economics clubs and Home Demonstration clubs, due to the focus on demonstration educational work to educate women about matters relating to the farm and home. In these efforts, the home was recognized as a contributing factor to the relative success of farms, and the work of homemakers was recognized as critical to ensuring said successes. Many of the lessons taught were related to food preservation, gardening, sewing, and home maintenance.

Although the clubs were not restricted to rural membership, the affiliation of the homemakers extension with farms and the farm extension services resulted in a membership that was primarily rural. The IEHA has also been instrumental in the growth and success of 4H programs throughout the state. Early leaders and educators in the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association include notable women from Purdue University like Lella Gaddis, Virginia Claypool Meredith, and Eva Goble. Although the meetings and mission of the Extension Homemakers Association was always officially to educate women and make home processes more efficient and productive, the groups also served as a social outlet for women who typically did not spend much time outside of the home.

More closely related to this social aspect of the Homemakers Association was the Extension Homemakers Chorus (1934-1974), organized and conducted by Al Stewart. Individual chapters or counties would practice songs from the song of the month books distributed by Stewart before occasionally meeting as a large group to rehearse and perform. The chorus performed throughout the state, as well as some more notable national and international performances.

*Sources:*

Materials within the collection

Arnold, Eleanor, editor; *Memories of Hoosier Homemakers*; Indiana Extension Homemakers Association.

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Indiana Extension Homemakers Association records (1953-2015; 1.25 cubic feet) documents the history and activities of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association, an educational and social group for homemakers in Indiana. The collection is primarily composed of materials from the Miami County branch of the Association and materials relating to the statewide Homemakers chorus. Unfortunately, there is not much material at this time relating to other counties, but the activities of the Miami County homemakers seem to be representative of clubs throughout the state. The collection would be useful to researchers interested in the extension activities of Purdue University, women's history and material culture, women's social groups, farm/rural life, and shifts in the domestic sphere during the twentieth century. Types of materials include: papers, publications, artifacts, scrapbooks, etc. The records are organized into two series:

### Arrangement

- 1. Extension Homemakers, 1953-2015 (1 cubic foot).** This series contains yearbooks with information on the membership and activities of the Extension homemakers, a scrapbook, historical information on the Miami County homemakers, and pins distributed and worn by the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically and by type.
- 2. Extension Homemakers Chorus, 1957-1974 (0.25 cubic feet).** This series contains information regarding the Extension Homemakers Chorus that was directed by Albert Stewart and performed both locally and nationally. The majority of the series is comprised of songbooks used by the women who were members of the chorus. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically and by type.

### Descriptive Rules

*Describing Archives: A Content Standard*

### Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been placed in archival housing.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Series 1. Extension Homemakers, 1953-2015**

(0.9 cubic feet)

#### **Box 1**

##### Item

- 1 Butler Happy Homemakers scrapbook, 1958
2. Pins, 1997-2014  
Small artifact box with 18 assorted Indiana Extension Homemakers pins
3. Pins, 1994-2015  
Small artifact box with 19 assorted Indiana Extension Homemakers pins

#### **Box 2**

##### Folder

- 1 Miami County yearbooks, 1953-1959
2. Miami County yearbooks, 1961-1969
3. Miami County yearbooks, 1970-1980
4. Miami County yearbooks, 1980-1990
5. Miami County yearbooks, 1990-2000
6. Miami County yearbooks, 2000-2008

#### **Box 3**

##### Folder

- 1 Miscellaneous county yearbooks, 1996-1997
2. Miami County constitution and bylaws, 1956
3. Miami County fifty year history, 1971
4. Miami county Achievement Day programs, 1968-1978

### **Series 2. Extension Homemakers Chorus, 1957-1974**

(0.3 cubic feet)

#### **Box 4**

##### Folder

- 1 Extension Homemakers Chorus, 1973
2. Song of the Month Books, 1960-1970
3. *Sugar and Spice*, 1957
4. *Schirmer's Favorite Choruses for Women's Voices*, 1958
5. *Schirmer's Favorite Choruses for Women's Voices*, 1959

6. *Purdue Choral Collection for Women's Voices, 1968-1969*
7. *Purdue Choral Collection for Women's Voices, 1969-1970*
8. *Purdue Choral Collection for Women's Voices, 1970-1971*
9. *Purdue Choral Collection for Women's Voices, 1971-1972*
10. *Purdue Choral Collection for Women's Voices, 1972-1973*
11. *Purdue Choral Collection for Women's Voices, 1973-1974*