

# FINDING AID



## MARY K. CRAIG CLASS RECORDS

Descriptive Summary	
<b>Collection Title</b>	Mary K. Craig Class Records
<b>Creator</b>	Members of the Mary K. Craig Class
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1894-1994
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>These are the early records of the Mary K. Craig Class, a women's group located in Dallas, Texas. The purpose of the Mary K. Craig Class is the cultural enlightenment of women. They seek to bring enjoyment as well as instill leadership in its members. Mary Kittrell Craig organized the group around 1894. Members presented papers on topics assigned to them by Mrs. Craig; topics included current events, history, literature, art, and travel. After the death of its founder, the class met in 1921 and made the decision to continue meeting, renaming the group after their founder. The Mary K. Craig class changed the direction of education in Dallas by adopting the lecture field as their primary means of teaching. This group was in the first in Dallas to seek outside speaker from the national and global arena. Programing changed from member presentations to invited guest lecturers. The class introduced members to a more diversified program, bringing in authors, artists, musicians, clergy, travelers, professors, and government officials to speak on a variety of topics. Researchers interest in early women's and adult education in Dallas will find these records useful.</p>
<b>AR or GA number</b>	A.83.157/A.2001.6
<b>Extent</b>	2 linear feet
<b>Language</b>	The records are in English
<b>Repository</b>	Dallas Historical Society

<b>Biographical/ Historical Note</b>	
	<p>Mary Kittrell Craig was born on November 17, 1842 in Jackson, Mississippi. After graduating from the Wilcox Female Academy, she married a cotton planter, Emmett E. Craig. The two moved to Texas in 1874, settling in Paris where Mrs. Craig worked as a teacher. The couple then relocated to Dallas where Emmett Craig died two years later.</p> <p>Mrs. Craig taught classes at the Grove School, the Dallas Academy (the oldest private school in Dallas) and at the Hockaday School for girls. She believed in the value of travel, in the liberal arts, and in continuing education. Her goal was to serve the young matrons, housewives, as well as girls of Dallas who want to continue their education. She taught them in their homes about the classics in literature including: Homer, Dante, and Shakespeare, history, and foreign languages.</p> <p>For over thirty years Mrs. Craig taught her study group, the Wednesday class, about art, literature, and travel; as time progressed she incorporated politics and current events of the day. Over the years Mary actively participated in numerous other organizations including the Standard Club, the Saturday Afternoon Club, the Browning Club and the Homer Circle.</p> <p>After the death of Mrs. Craig on August 31, 1921, the members of the Wednesday class decided to continue to meet as a study group under, renaming the class after their mentor. The direction of the class changed from member presentations to guest lecturers. The class hosted numerous female guests over the years including Amelia Earhart, Vera Brittain, Mary Ellen Chase, Princess Kryptokin, and the Dame of Sark. Male guests included Hector Bolitho Phillip Guedalla, Will Druant, and James Michener.</p> <p>The Mary K. Craig Class is known for its distinct personality. Members are commended for their attentiveness, intelligence and courteousness, as recounted by numerous guest lecturers. "The class itself seeks no publicity, none for its personnel, no social acclaim, no pictures in the newspapers." Any publicity was purely on behalf of and for the benefit of the lecturers. They seek neither financial incentive nor notoriety; they are dedicated to their membership and communicating the importance of education in Dallas.</p>

	<p>Today members continue to meet on Wednesday mornings at the Dallas Women’s Club to hear guest speakers and lecturers. These women share their knowledge, stories and experiences, contributing to the intellectual and professional development of one another. In 1994 the class celebrated its centennial anniversary and adopted the “lamp of learning” as its logo.</p>
<b>Scope and Contents Note</b>	
	<p>The collection is arranged alphabetically by file name. The bulk of the collection consists of the “Class Resumes” which give detailed descriptions of the programs for that particular year, a list of the speakers as well as their topics and sometimes a list of members and/or officers and notes from the meetings. These documents are an excellent source of information for researchers interested in finding out how local and world events shaped the selection of lecturers and the direction of the Mary K. Craig Class.</p> <p>Other materials include notes taken by various members, minutes from board meetings, correspondence, news clippings, and copies of the class’ history.</p>
<b>Restrictions</b>	
<b>Access</b>	Open for research.
<b>Literary Rights Statement</b>	Permission to publish, reproduce, distribute, or use by any and all other current or future developed methods or procedures must be obtained in writing from the Dallas Historical Society. All rights are reserved and retained regardless of current or future development or laws that may apply to fair use standards.
<b>Administrative Information</b>	
<b>Provenance</b>	The records were donated to the Dallas Historical Society by the Mary K. Craig Class in 1983 and in 2001.
<b>Citation</b>	Mary K. Craig Class Records, A.83.157, Box Number, Folder Number, The Dallas Historical Society.
<b>Related Material</b>	Mary K Craig Letters St. Louis 1904 World's Fair Texas/Dallas History & Archives, Dallas Public Library: MA06-6
<b>Arrangement</b>	Folders are arranged alphabetically and thereunder chronologically.
<b>Index Terms</b>	
<b>Persons</b>	Craig, Mary Kittrell

	<p>Speer, Alice L.  Belsterling, E.A.  Taylor, Mrs. Roy (Florence)</p>
<b>Organizations</b>	<p>Mary K. Craig Class  Dallas Woman's Club</p>
<b>Subjects</b>	<p>Education---Adult education  Education---Chautauquas  Clubs---Women-Societies and clubs</p>
<b>Places</b>	<p>Dallas, Texas  Dallas Woman's Club</p>
<b>Formats</b>	<p>Documents  Clippings  Journals</p>
<b>Alternate Titles</b>	<p>Historical Manuscripts Collection</p>

## Container Guide

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Collection Title      Mary K. Craig Class Records  
 Inclusive Dates      1894-1994  
 Number of folders    70  
 Linear ft.              2 Linear Feet  
 Arrangement Note    Folders are arranged alphabetically and thereunder chronologically.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates	Scope/Content Note (if used)
1	1	Board Meeting Minutes	1971-1975	
1	2	Board Meeting Minutes	1976-1980	
1	3	Board Meeting Minutes	1981-1988	
1	4	Class Account Book	1924-1970	
1	5	Class Annals	1941	Speech written by Jeannette Gaston and delivered on November 26, 1941 before the class and Dr. Herbert Gambrell of the Dallas Historical Society.
1	6	Class History	1894-1959	Compiled by Mrs. Edward A. Belsterling
1	7	Class History	1894-1959	Yellow bound edition of the Class History from 1894-1959. Hand written. Account compiled from writings, letters, and personal experiences of early and subsequent members. Written by Mrs. Edward A. Belsterling. Contains list of presidents, and a partial list of speakers at the back.
1	8	Class History	1894-1983	Edited by Jane Etheridge

1	9	Class History	1894-1994	Edited by Lillian Cullum Tate
1	10	Clippings	1933	
1	11	Clippings	1933	
1	12	Clippings	1967-1968	
1	13	Clippings	1970-1971, Undated	
1	14	Craig Class and Florence	Undated	Introduction to Mrs. Florence Green Taylor. Possibly written by Katherine Holt. Also includes a unsigned, handwritten note entitled prologue
1	15	Craig Class Programs	1924-1926	
1	16	Craig Class Resumé	1926-1927	
1	17	Craig Class Resumé	1927-1928	
1	18	Craig Class Resumé	1928-1929	
1	19	Craig Class Resumé	1929-1930	
1	20	Craig Class Resumé	1930-1931	
1	21	Craig Class Resumé	1931-1932	Titled "typed lecture notes"
1	22	Craig Class Resumé	1932-1933	
1	23	Craig Class Resumé	1933-1934	
1	24	Craig Class Resumé	1934-1935	
1	25	Craig Class Resumé	1935-1936	
1	26	Craig Class Resumé	1936-1937	
1	27	Craig Class Resumé	1937-1938	
1	28	Craig Class Resumé	1938-1939	
1	29	Craig Class Resumé	1939-1940	
1	30	Craig Class Resumé	1940-1941	
1	31	Craig Class Resumé	1941-1942	
1	32	Craig Class Resumé	1942-1943	
1	33	Craig Class Resumé	1943-1944	
1	34	Craig Class Resumé	1944-1945	
1	35	Craig Class Resumé	1945-1946	

1	36	Craig Class Resumé	1946-1947	
2	37	Craig Class Resumé	1947-1948	
2	38	Craig Class Resumé	1948-1949	
2	39	Craig Class Resumé	1949-1950	
2	40	Craig Class Resumé	1950-1951	
2	41	Craig Class Resumé	1951-1952	
2	42	Craig Class Resumé	1952-1953	
2	43	Craig Class Resumé	1953-1954	
2	44	Craig Class Resumé	1954-1955	
2	45	Craig Class Resumé	1955-1956	
2	46	Craig Class Resumé	1956-1957	
2	47	Craig Class Resumé	1957-1958	
2	48	Craig Class Resumé	1958-1959	
2	49	Craig Class Resumé	1959-1960	
2	50	Craig Class Resumé	1960-1961	
2	51	Craig Class Resumé	1961-1962	
2	52	Craig Class Resumé	1962-1963	
2	53	Craig Class Resumé	1963-1964	
2	54	Craig Class Resumé	1964-1965	
2	55	Craig Class Resumé	1965-1966	
2	56	Craig Class Resumé	1969-1970	
2	57	Doom	Undated	A story entitled "Doom". Author unknown. Story talks about Hitler and the second World War. Told in first person.
2	58	Florence's Notes	1966-1968	Notes taken by Florence Taylor from class meetings. Reads very similar to a Mary K. Craig Class Resume. Notes are typed.

2	59	Florence's Notes	1968-1969, Undated	Notes taken by Florence Taylor from class meetings. Reads very similar to a Mary K. Craig Class Resume. Some notes are typed, others handwritten.
2	60	Genealogical Information on Mrs. Craig	1982	A letter written by Val Hain to Franklin on July 22, 1982. Mr. Val Hain attempted to try and track down Mary K. Craig's family history in Alabama. Includes photocopy of <i>Northern Alabama: Historical and Biographical Illustrated</i> .
2	61	Journal	1909-1910	Handwritten journal of events; author unknown. FRAGILE.
2	62	Letter from Mary K. Craig	1912	Dated October 1, 1912; addressed to Miss Elsa Mills.
2	63	Letters from Mary K. Craig	1914-1919	3 letters; 2 photocopies, one original.
2	64	Letter/Speech	1910	Traveling through Europe; art & architecture. Author unknown.
2	65	Margaret Wilman Journal	1970-1975	Margaret Wilman's typed and handwritten notes about class events, members and speakers.
2	66	Notes	1906	Black composition notebook containing member attendance notes and notes over topics discussed such as Latin American and Mexico. Author unknown.



2	67	Notes	Undated	Notes and agenda are for business meetings. One agenda mentions the plan of the class' organization, "shall we continue", and the establishment of a memorial and a lecture fund.
2	68	Program Notes	1931-1932	Carbon copies of program notes.
2	69	Program Notes	1955	
2	70	Program Notes	1958-1959	Handwritten notes.