

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Brittan Square Community  
Club Records

1997.127

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.  
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### Collection Information

Abstract : The Brittan Square Community Club was formed as a neighborhood social club whose members were united in providing charitable assistance to those in need, both in the neighborhood area and throughout greater Worcester. The club was organized in 1916 and continues its life through the 1990s.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of Ethel Gustafson, Worcester, September 1997.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Brittan Square Community Club (Worcester, Mass.)  
Charities – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Women – Societies and clubs – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Clubs – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Community organization – Massachusetts – Worcester.

## Historical Notes

The Brittan Square Community Club was formed in 1916 as a neighborhood charitable organization for the women of the area to provide social services and for self-improvement. Initially club members did direct charitable work among needy in the neighborhood and elsewhere in the city as time and finances allowed. The club's work included financial assistance, provision of food or clothing for needy families, education in areas of household management and finance, etc. However the direction of the club slowly changed over the years to a more indirect provider of assistance, by means of support of professional charities, such as Red Cross or other local charitable providers. Club members became volunteers in hospitals and within the framework of charitable agencies, and the club provided financial support to these agencies. Club meetings were held twice monthly initially, later becoming monthly, with a program of guest speakers, periodic dinners, etc. The club also organized various fund-raising activities to continue their support of charitable work. The Brittan Square Community Club continues its 80 year history of charity into the 2000s.

## Scope and Content

The Brittan Square Community Club Records include minutes books from 1916 through 1980, and several copies of its Constitution throughout the years. The manuscript minutes books provide insight into the clubs activities through its history, and provide membership lists, attendance records, and names of officers.

Treasurer's Books from the 1930s and 1940s provide detailed accounting of the club's activities. In addition numerous receipts and letters of acknowledgment from 1918 through the 1980s provide additional insight into the charitable activities of the club and the change of direction from direct charitable work to support of professional charitable organizations.

Program books from 1931 to 1990 provide information on the social and educational aspects of the club, as well as indicating the various fund-raising activities undertaken through the years to provide funding for charitable endeavors.

Club histories written for anniversary celebrations, especially the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1941 and the 50<sup>th</sup> in 1966, provide insight into the clubs activities over the years and illustrate its change from direct personal charitable works to support of professional charities. Additional membership lists and lists of club officers throughout its life indicate the base of community support for the organization.

The collection is arranged topically, and described to folder-level.

### Series Description

Series 1: Administrative Records. Includes minute books, copies of the club's Constitution, letters of resignation, clippings relative to club officials, and other materials inserted into the minute books, 1916 to 1970s.

Series 2: Financial Records. Includes Treasurer's books, receipts, canceled passbooks, letters of acknowledgment for donations, and related items, 1930s to 1980s.

Series 3: Programs. Annual calendars of club events, 1930s to 1990s.

Series 4: Histories. Includes club anniversary materials including publicity, special programs, clippings, and written histories, with special emphasis on the club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1941 and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1966.

Brittan Square Community Club Records  
1997.127  
Series 1, Administrative Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1997.127.1.1	Minutes Book 1, October 27, 1916 through June 14, 1918: Secretary's records of meetings. Notebook, with 2 additional separated records. 3 items
1	2	1997.127.1.2	Minutes Book 3, October 15, 1920 through June 9, 1922: Secretary's records of meetings, with inserts (programs and letters). 1 notebook
1	3	1997.127.1.3	Minutes Book 4, October 20, 1922 through June 11, 1926: Secretary's records of meetings, with inserts (clippings, memoranda, letters). Notebook with inserts removed. 12 items
1	4	1997.127.1.4	Minutes Book 5, October 15, 1926 through June 14, 1929: Secretary's records of meetings, with insert (letter) 3 items
1	5	1997.127.1.5	Minutes Book 6, October 18, 1929 through June 2, 1933: Secretary's records of meetings, with inserts (letters and lists) 5 items
1	6	1997.127.1.6	Minutes Book 7, June 2, 1933 through June 1936: Secretary's records of meetings, with lists of members and attendance records.
1	7	1997.127.1.7	Minutes Book 8, October 23, 1936 through May 9, 1941: Secretary's records of meetings, with lists of members and attendance records; and with clippings attached to book.
1	8	1997.127.1.8	Minutes Book 9, May 23, 1941 through June 9, 1944: Secretary's records of meetings, with lists of members and attendance records; and with inserts (clippings, club history, both Aqp) attached to book. 4 items.

Series 1, continued

1	9	1997.127.1.9	Minutes Book, October 7, 1944 to June 11, 1954: Secretary's records of meetings, with lists of members and attendance records. BV, 300 p.
1	10	1997.127.1.10	Minutes Book, October 16, 1954 to Annual Report, May 6, 1970: Secretary's reports of meetings, with lists of members and attendance records. BV, 300 p.
2	11	1997.127.1.11	Letter: Mrs. Floyd Reddington, Secretary, from Mrs. George J. Knoll, August 6, 1961, re resignation from club.
		11a	Envelope
2	12	1997.127.1.12a-g	Constitution of the Brittan Square Community Club, February 10, 1956. Typescript, 7 copies
2	13	1997.127.1.13a-c	Constitution of the Brittan Square Community Club, various dates; with separate copies of Section 3, Article 4. 3 items
2	14	1997.127.1.14a-f	Constitution of the Brittan Square Community Club: Leaflets, n.d. 6 copies



Brittan Square Community Club Records  
1997.127  
Series 2, Financial Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	15	1997.127.2.1	Treasurer's Book, 1933-1941. Records income and expenses, includes dues records of members. 1 vol., spiral bound, 26 cm.
2	16	1997.127.2.2	Treasurer's Book, 1942-1945. Records income and expenses, includes dues record of members. 1 vol., spiral bound, 26 cm.
2	17	1997.127.2.3	Treasurer's Book, 1945-1946. Records income and expenses 1945 to 1954, with dues records of members, 1945-1950. 1 vol., 26 cm.
2	18	1997.127.2.4a-e	Canceled bank books: Worcester Five Cents Savings Bank, 1917-1923, 1923-1928, 1928-1945, 1954-1963; Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, 1949-1963. 5 items
2	19	1997.127.2.5	Receipts, 1918-1922, with dues arrears lists, letters, etc. 27 items.
2	20	1997.127.2.6	Receipts, 1923-1925. 23 items
2	21	1997.127.2.7	Receipts, 1925-1926. 9 items
2	22	1997.127.2.8	Receipts and canceled checks, 1927-1928. 52 items
2	23	1997.127.2.9	Receipts and canceled checks, 1929. 21 items
2	24	1997.127.2.10	Receipts and canceled checks, 1930. 23 items
2	25	1997.127.2.11	Receipts and canceled checks, 1931-1932, with legal notice re bequest. 32 items
2	26	1997.127.2.12	Receipts, 1933-1935. 21 items
2	27	1997.127.2.13	Receipts, 1936-1938. 20 items

Series 2, continued

2	28	1997.127.2.14	Receipts, 1939-1940.	15 items
2	29	1997.127.2.15	Receipts, 1941-1942.	18 items
2	30	1997.127.2.16	Receipts, 1943-1944.	27 items
2	31	1997.127.2.17	Receipts, 1944-1945.	9 items
2	32	1997.127.2.18	Receipts, 1945-1946, with memoranda re members.	7 items
2	33	1997.127.2.19	Receipts, 1946-1947.	10 items
2	34	1997.127.2.20	Receipts, 1947-1948.	18 items
2	35	1997.127.2.21	Receipts and canceled checks, 1949-1950.	16 items
2	36	1997.127.2.22	Receipts and acknowledgments, 1963-1968.	18 items
2	37	1997.127.2.23	Receipts for pledges to: Hahnemann Hospital Building Fund, Memorial Hospital Building Fund, Worcester Girls' Club.	13 items
2	38	1997.127.2.24	Letters of acknowledgment, 1959-1961.	6 items
2	39	1997.127.2.25	Receipts, 1951-1959.	84 items
2	40	1997.127.2.26	Receipts, 1960-1963.	18 items

Brittan Square Community Club  
1997.127  
Series 3, Programs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	41	1997.127.3.1-.6	Programs, 1930-1939. Pamphlets, 4 p. 6 items
2	42	1997.127.3.7-.9	Programs, 1940-1949. Pamphlets, 4 p. 3 items
2	43	1997.127.3.10-.17	Programs, 1950-1959. Pamphlets, 4 p. 8 items
2	44	1997.127.3.18-.32	Programs, 1960-1969. Pamphlets, 4 to 6 p. 15 items
3	45	1997.127.3.33-.37	Programs, 1970-1979. Pamphlets, 4 to 8 p. 5 items
3	46	1997.127.3.38-.47	Programs, 1980-1989. Pamphlets, 6 to 8 p. 10 items

Brittan Square Community Club Records  
1997.127  
Series 4, Histories

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	47	1997.127.4.1	History of the Brittan Square Community Club, November 6, 1936, 20 <sup>th</sup> year. Typescript, 2 p.
3	47	1997.127.4.2	Clipping: "Charity sole goal of club", Worcester, s.n., 1936. Aqp
3	48	1997.127.4.3	Clippings: "A twenty-fifth anniversary", and, "Founders to celebrate", re 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brittan Square Community Club. Worcester, s.n., 1942. Aqp
3	48	1997.127.4.4-.6	Lists, memoranda re 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Brittan Square Community Club.
3	48	1997.127.4.7-.8	Letters sent to club members and friends re 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brittan Square Community Club. 2 items (4 p.)
3	48	1997.127.4.9a-b	Report on the 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Brittan Square Community Club. (.9b is abbreviated) 2 items
3	48	1997.127.4.10-.21	Letters: Responses to invitations to Brittan Square Community Club 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, with envelopes. 12 items
3	49	1997.127.4.22	History of Brittan Square Community Club, written and read by Marion W. Kendall upon 35 <sup>th</sup> anniversary at Meeting House in Princeton, Mass. Manuscript, 3 p.
3	49	1997.127.4.23	Clipping: "Brittan Square group active many years": Worcester, Mass. : Sunday Telegram, April 5, 1953. Aqp
3	50	1997.127.4.24	Letter: Review of 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration sent to members unable to attend, October 30, 1956.

Series 4, continued

3	50	1997.127.4.25	Serial: Norton Spirit, May 1956; article re Mrs. Dorothy (Peck) Chapman.
3	50	1997.127.4.26	List: Attendance at 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon, October 5, 1956.
3	50	1997.127.4.27	Souvenir napkin, embossed "Brittan Square Community Club, 1916-1956."
3	50	1997.127.4.28	Clipping: "Brittan Square club plans anniversary." Worcester; s.n., 1956. Aqp
3	50	1997.127.4.29	List: expenses re 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon.
3	50	1997.127.4.30	A History of Brittan Square Community Club, 1916-1956 – 40 <sup>th</sup> year / by Marion W. Kendall, October 5, 1956. Manuscript, 8 p.
3	50	1997.127.4.31	List: former members.
3	50	1997.127.4.32	Letter: copy of letter sent to former members re 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
3	50	1997.127.4.33	Letter: copy of letter sent to present members re 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
3	50	1997.127.4.34	Minutes: fortieth anniversary celebration meeting.
3	50	1997.127.4.35	Lists: Presidents and ice-Presidents, 1916-1957. 2 p.
3	50	1997.127.4.36	Notes: Messages sent from non-attending former members.
3	50	1997.127.4.37	Membership list, Brittan Square Community Club, from date of organization - October 27, 1916 to January 5, 1942, celebration of 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary; brought up to date in 1956 for 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. 9 p.
3	51	1997.127.4.38	List: deceased members (1961) Series 4, continued
3	51	1997.127.4.39	List: Honorary members and Life members, 1961.

3	51	1997.127.4.40	List: Present members, 1961.
3	51	1997.127.4.41a-b	Typescript: "45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary", history of the Brittan Square Community Club. 2 copies, 5 pages.
3	52	1997.127.4.42	Clippings: "Brittan club marks anniversary", and, "Community club marks Jubilee". Worcester, s.n., May 1966. Aqp
3	52	1997.127.4.43	Notes: 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary agenda and speaker's notes on 5 x 7 in. file cards. 10 p.
3	52	1997.127.4.44	Notice: Anniversary meeting, with attachment to be returned.
3	52	1997.127.4.45-.53	Letters: to Brittan Square Community Club from members and friends re attendance at 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. 9 items
3	52	1997.127.4.54a-d	Lists: Presidents, former members, invitation list, attendance list. 4 items
3	52	1997.127.4.55	Poem: "Brittan Square Community Club, 1916-1966" / by Louise M. Peterson. 22 copies
3	52	1997.127.4.56	History: "The first fifty years of the Brittan Square Community Club". 4 p. 11 copies
3	53	1997.127.4.57	Card: Thank-you note to Brittan Square Community Club from Antoinette W. Armstrong. N.d.
3	53	1997.127.4.58	Secretary's records, excerpts, 1917-1970. 26 p. Aqp