

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

---

MSS Finding Aids

Manuscripts

---

1-11-2008

## XV Club - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 190)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_mss\\_fin\\_aid](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid)



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "XV Club - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 190)" (2008). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 340.

[https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_mss\\_fin\\_aid/340](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/340)

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSS Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 190    XV Club – Bowling Green, Kentucky**

14 boxes. 84 folders. 2003 items. 1879-2019. Originals, photocopies, and photographs.

2008.14.1

***HISTORY***

The organizational meeting of the XV Club was held 23 September 1879. Reverend John L. Caldwell, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, invited ten men from the Bowling Green community to join him in his study for the purpose of forming a literary discussion group. The members, which were limited to fifteen, were chosen for their social and intellectual qualifications regardless of religious or political affiliation. The original fifteen members were Caldwell, Malcolm H. Crump, John E. DuBose, William L. Dulaney, James D. Hines, Emmett G. Logan, Clarence U. McElroy, James A. Mitchell, William A. Obenchain, Robert Rodes, Arthur M. Rutledge, T. Sumner Stevens, R. R. Thomas, J. W. Wightman, and Henry M. Woods. Each member drew an identifying number, 1 to 15, from a hat and from then on was known by that number in the club minutes and correspondence. The first president, or squire, was Robert Rodes and the first secretary was J. W. Wightman. The fiftieth anniversary celebration was held September 23, 1929 in the very office in which the original meeting took place. At that time three of the charter members were still living: Caldwell, Rutledge, and Woods.

The club's purpose is the discussion of literary, scientific, historical, political and current topics, while enjoying the group's intimate fellowship. The club meets on Thursdays fifteen times during the year; fifteen years constitute one cycle of the club. At each meeting a class topic is presented by one or more members then the other members are allowed five minutes each for remarks. The first topic the club discussed in 1879 was "The Seven Best Books in the English Language."

Over the years the club membership has represented a cross section of the area: lawyers, physicians, clergymen, farmers, businessmen, teachers, and military men. Some of the prominent Bowling Green citizens that have been members of the club include: Marvel Mills Logan, L.C. Curry, G. Duncan Milliken Jr., Felix E. Allen, William Luther Sibert, Benjamin F. Cabell, Thomas O. Helm, Finley C. Grise, and Henry Hardin Cherry.

***COLLECTION***

This collection consists chiefly of the club's minute books, beginning with its first meeting 23 September 1879. Because the club is still active and archives its materials annually, three series were developed for this collection: **Series I Minutes** which includes the

club's minutes; **Series II Administrative Papers** which includes the club constitution, club histories, correspondence, membership lists, invitations and programs, and resolutions written upon the deaths of members; and **Series III Miscellaneous** that includes loose copies of programs given by members, lists of programs given by members, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>SERIES I</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1879-2019</b>	<b>items</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1879-1894</b>	<b>9 items</b>
Folder 1	Minute book 1	1879-1888	1 item
Folder 2	Minute book 2	1888-1891	1 item
Folder 3	Stray items found in Minute book 2	1888-1891	2 items
Folder 4	Minute book 3	1891-1894	1 item
Folder 5	Stray items found in Minute book 3	1891-1894	4 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1894-1899</b>	<b>4 items</b>
Folder 1	Minute book 4	1894-1896	1 item
Folder 2	Minute book 5	1896-1897	1 item
Folder 3	Minute book 6	1898-1899	1 item
Folder 4	Stray item found in Minute book 6	1898-1899	1 item
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1899-1905</b>	<b>7 items</b>
Folder 1	Minute book 7	1899-1901	1 item
Folder 2	Stray item found in Minute book 7		1 item
Folder 3	Minute book 8	1901-1903	1 item
Folder 4	Stray items found in Minute book 8		3 items
Folder 5	Minute book 9	1903-1905	1 item

<b>BOX 4</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1905-1910</b>	<b>3 items</b>
Folder 1	Minute book 10	1905-1907	1 item
Folder 2	Stray item found in Minute book 10		1 item
Folder 3	Minute book 11	1908-1910	1 item
<b>BOX 5</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1910-1918</b>	<b>8 items</b>
Folder 1	Minute book 12	1910-1912	1 item
Folder 2	Minute book 13	1912-1915	1 item
Folder 3	Stray items found in Minute book 13		5 items
Folder 4	Minute book 14	1915-1918	1 item
<b>BOX 6</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1922-1965</b>	<b>23 items</b>
Folder 1	Minute book	1922-1929	1 item
Folder 2	Stray item found in Minute in folder 1	1922-1929	1 item
Folder 3	Minute book	1929-1941	1 item
Folder 4	Stray items found in Minute book in folder 3	1929-1941	8 items
Folder 5	Minute book	1954-1965	1 item
Folder 6	Stray items found in Minute book in folder 5	1954-1965	11 items
<b>BOX 7</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1965-1980</b>	<b>73 items</b>
Folder 1	Minute book	1965-1976	1 item
Folder 2	Stray items found in Minute book in folder 1 (Photos)	1965-1976	31 items
Folder 3	Minute book	1976-1980	1 item
Folder 4	Stray items found in Minute book in folder 3	1976-1980	21 items

Folder 5	Minutes	1984-2000	19 items
<b>BOX 8</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>2003-2019</b>	<b>233 items</b>
Folder 1	Minutes	2003-2005	19 items
Folder 2	Minutes	2006	15 items
Folder 3	Minutes	2007	7 items
Folder 4	Minutes	2007-2008	14 items
Folder 5	Minutes	2008-2009	15 items
Folder 6	Minutes	2009-2010	17 items
Folder 7	Minutes	2010-2011	14 items
Folder 8	Minutes	2011-2012	15 items
Folder 9	Minutes	2012-2013	17 items
Folder 10	Minutes	2013-2014	14 items
Folder 11	Minutes	2014-2015	13 items
Folder 12	Minutes	2015-2016	15 items
Folder 13	Minutes	2016-2017	15 items
Folder 14	Minutes	2017-2018	16 items
Folder 15	Minutes	2018-2019	14 items
<b>SERIES II – ADMINISTRATIVE PAPERS</b>		<b>1899-2019</b>	<b>items</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Administrative papers</b>	<b>1899-2019</b>	<b>636 items</b>
Folder 1	Constitution		1 item
Folder 2	Histories	1923-1970	8 items
Folder 3	Overview	2007	4 items

Folder 4	Membership	1934-1995	34 items
Folder 5	Membership	2001-2018	27 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1899-1994	29 items
Folder 7	Correspondence	2001-2003	39 items
Folder 8	Correspondence	2004-2005	48 items
Folder 9	Correspondence	2006-2007	36 items
Folder 10	Correspondence	2007-2010	116 items
Folder 11	Correspondence	2010-2011	68 items
Folder 12	Correspondence	2012-2013	68 items
Folder 13	Correspondence	2014-2015	60 items
Folder 14	Correspondence	2016-2018	66 items
Folder 15	Correspondence	2018-2019	29 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Administrative papers</b>	<b>1889-2010</b>	<b>763 items</b>
Folder 1	Invitations and programs	1889-1946	5 items
Folder 2	Invitations	1962-1978	217 items
Folder 3	Invitations	1979-1981	43 items
Folder 4	Invitations	1982-1984	46 items
Folder 5	Invitations	1985-1988	47 items
Folder 6	Invitations	1989-1992	52 items
Folder 7	Invitations	1993-1996	48 items
Folder 8	Invitations	1996-2003	97 items
Folder 8	Invitations	2004-2010	92 items
Folder 9	Invitations	2004-2010	116 items

<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Administrative papers</b>	<b>1937-2019</b>	<b>130 items</b>
Folder 1	Invitations	2011-2016	131 items
Folder 2	Resolutions upon death of members	1937-1975	3 items
Folder 3	Resolutions upon death of members – Charles Stewart (cd)	2006	3 items
Folder 4	Special information about members	2013-2019	3 items
<b>SERIES III – MISCELLANEOUS</b>		<b>1897-2019</b>	<b>items</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>1897-2007</b>	<b>107 items</b>
Folder 1	Programs given by members – Loose copies	1897-1984	27 items
Folder 2	Programs given by members – Loose copies	n.d.	2 items
Folder 3	Programs given by members – Loose copies	2001-2007	19 items
Folder 4	Programs given by members – 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	2005	28 items
Folder 5	List of programs given by members	n.d.	4 items
Folder 6	Programs given by members – Information about John J. Audubon	1937-1990	17 items
Folder 7	Programs given by members – History of criminal justice system in Kentucky	1981-1998	9 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>2009-2018</b>	<b>56 items</b>
Folder 1	Programs given by members – Loose copies and auxiliary items	2009-2011	10 items
Folder 2	Programs given by members – Loose copies and auxiliary items	2011-2013	15 items
Folder 3	Programs given by members – Loose copies and auxiliary items	2015-2016	10 items

Folder 4	Programs given by members – Loose copies and auxiliary items	2017-2018	16 items
Folder 5	Programs given by members – Loose copies and auxiliary items	2018-2019	5 items
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>1899-2019</b>	<b>137 items</b>
Folder 1	Schedules of meetings	1992-2019	38 items
Folder 2	Clippings	1899-1991	15 items
Folder 3	Photographs	1929-2019	59 items
Folder 4	Miscellaneous – Menus	1989-2018	19 items
Folder 5	Miscellaneous material related to XV's donation to the Kentucky historical marker for Eliza Calvert Hall	2008	7 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS XV Club – Bowling Green, 1879-2019  
190 Kentucky

Chiefly minute books of this Bowling Green, Kentucky men's literary club. Also includes administrative and miscellaneous papers related to the club's organization, history, membership, and programs.

14 boxes. 84 folders. 2003 items  
2008.14.1

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Clubs – Bowling Green – XV Club  
Literary clubs  
Literature  
Societies and clubs

Lile/Jeffrey 01/11/2008; 12/13/2019