Introduction

This collection contains five scrapbooks that document the history of the Vermont Chapter Daughters of American Colonists during the period from 1962 to 2004. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by the Hartford (Vt.) Historical Society in 2005; they had received the scrapbooks in 2004 from Velma Sprague, the last state regent of the organization. The collection is housed in one document storage box (1 linear foot).

Agency Note

The Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC) was founded in 1607. The Vermont Chapter was organized in 1926 and flourished until 1950 at which time it was abandoned. In October of 1962, the state chapter was newly re-organized by Ethel Duke Barrows of East Calais, Vermont.

The DAC is a patriotic society whose object is to be open to any woman who has attained her 18th birthday and can trace her lineal descendents to an ancestor who rendered civil or military service to the colonies prior to July 4, 1776. The DAC’s stated purpose is “Patriotic, Historical, and Educational.” In 1988, it was the second largest women’s patriotic organization in the country. It had the broadest eligibility base of any colonial society, recognizing virtually every service that went into the building of the new nation. The organization emphasizes the contributions of the unsung hero, the struggling family on the wilderness plantation, and the soldier whose name did not always make it into the history books.


The Vermont Chapter was disbanded in October of 2004.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of five scrapbooks, all documenting the history of the Vermont Chapter Daughters of American Colonists, starting in 1962 and ending in 2004. They contain both black & white and color photographs, newspaper clippings, award programs and photos at Norwich University, programs from national award banquets in Washington, D.C., selected correspondence, and certificates. The organization gave an annual award to a “deserving senior Air Force ROTC cadet” at the Military College of
Vermont (Norwich University). The scrapbooks contain many photographs and programs from these annual events.

The state organization assisted the national Daughters of American Colonists in 1981 to select Frank Gaylord as the sculptor of a statue of William Penn. The statue is located in the Penn Treaty Park in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One of the organization’s last accomplishments was to work for and fund a state historic marker in Middlebury that highlights an ancient Indian trail. The marker was installed in July 2003.

Related Collections

The Vermont Historical Society’s Leahy Library also has records of similar organizations such as the Vermont Society of Colonial Dames, the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Vermont, and the Daughters of Colonial Wars.

Inventory

2 _____, 1970-1981
3 _____, 1982-1992
4 _____, 1992-1997
5 _____, 1998-2004

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DaughtersAmericanColonists.doc