

# New Hampshire State Library



## New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs: Papers of the Organization 1930s-1970s



Call#: NC O 635.906 N532  
Finding Aid

Prepared by Linda Kent  
Technical Services, NHSL  
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**Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains the records of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs (hereafter called the Federation or NHFGC) from the mid-1930s through the early 1970s, including scrapbooks, ledgers, reports, publications, plant inventories, and information on special events.

**Institutional Background**

The New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs was organized on May 23, 1933 and incorporated on January 13, 1964. According to the organization's website mission statement, "The New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources and statewide networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic beautification and environmental responsibility". [<http://www.nhfgc.org/>]. The membership of the organization is comprised of local garden clubs throughout the state. The Federation is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. It is currently active and publishes a journal called Lilac Letter.

**Provenance**

The collection was given to the New Hampshire State Library by the Federation in several increments over time, and there may be additional donations in the future. On record are gifts made in 1950, 1955, and 1960.

The Federation also made several gifts of gardening books and periodicals to the state library in the 1960s and 1970s. Records of these gifts are included in the collection.

In the summer of 2013, two additional cartons of materials from the Federation were discovered behind unrelated collections. It is believed that these were donated at the same time as the rest of the collection but were somehow separated. The boxes contained additional annual reports and organizational documents, as well as publications of the Federation, plant inventories and surveys, and material from the national organization and other states. The contents were integrated into the existing collection and the finding aid was revised accordingly.

**Span Dates:** 1930s to 1970s.

**Collection Strengths**

This collection contains the history of the organization and its member clubs. Because the NHFGC is currently active, the collection is a resource for the Federation as well as for others interested in the history of garden clubs in New Hampshire.

**Collection Size**

The collection contains 9 archival boxes (5 letter-size full boxes, 1 legal-size full box, and three archival pamphlet boxes), 6 scrapbooks, the organization seal, a poster of the Federation library's bookplate, and designs for the creation of a garden for the NH governor. It covers approx. 4.5 linear feet, not including the poster and garden design.

**Condition of the Collection:** Most of the documents are in good condition and can be used with only the usual precautions. Extra caution should be used with the scrapbooks and newspaper clippings, as these are brittle. Scrapbook 5, covering 1950-1951, was in extremely brittle condition, with news clippings pasted onto acidic pages which were breaking and crumbling. The scrapbook pages and the image on the cover were scanned and burned onto a CD-ROM in pdf format. The member club pamphlets which had been in scrapbook 5 were placed in the envelope with the CD-ROM. The original brittle pages were discarded.

### **Copyright Status and Access**

The collection is the property of the New Hampshire State Library and may be viewed upon request to the library staff.

### **Subjects, People, Names**

Burns, Mrs. Ralph A.

Civic beautification--NH

Clubs, societies, etc.--NH

Garden clubs--NH

Gardening--NH

Flower shows--NH

Marston, Frank

Mingolla, Mary F.

Morse, Dorothy G.

Mullen, Kathleen K.

National Garden Club, Inc.

NH Federation of Garden Clubs

Service clubs--NH

Spaulding, Marion T.

### **Arrangement and Description**

The collection is arranged into 9 series, and is described at the folder level. Items already housed in envelopes or scrapbooks are retained in their original order. As noted above, the two boxes of materials re-discovered in the summer of 2013 were integrated into the existing collection.

#### **Container List**

##### **Box 1 Series I: NHSL Records of Gift Books & Subscriptions from NHFGC**

##### **Series II: Organizational Documents, Insignia, and History (See also Series IX: Oversize, and Series X: Realia)**

Folder 2: Constitution and Bylaws, revised 1951

Constitution and Bylaws, revised 1964

Folder 3: Handbook in 3-ring binder

Folder 4: Logos and related documents

Folder 5: History of the NHFGC

##### **Series III: Annual Reports, Minutes, Officers and Rosters**

Member garden clubs submitted annual reports of their activities and members; these were included with the annual reports of the Federation.

Folder 6: Executive Board minutes 1936-1943

Folder 7: Rosters of officers and members 1945-1958  
Folder 8: Annual reports submitted 1940  
Folder 9: Letters from the President, 1943-1946  
Folder 10: Notebook contents of recording secretary Mary F. Mingolla, 1949-1950  
Folder 11: Annual reports submitted 1953  
Folder 12: Annual reports submitted 1954  
Folder 13: Annual reports submitted 1956  
Folder 14: Annual reports submitted 1957  
Folder 15: Annual reports submitted 1958

**Box 2 Series III**

Folder 16: Annual reports submitted 1959  
Folder 17: Annual reports submitted 1961  
Folder 18: Annual reports submitted 1962  
Folder 19: Annual reports submitted 1965  
Folder 20: Annual reports submitted 1966  
Folder 21: Annual reports submitted 1968  
Folder 22: Annual reports submitted 1969  
Folder 23: Annual reports submitted 1970  
Folder 24: Annual reports submitted 1971  
Folder 25: Annual reports submitted 1973  
Folder 26: Annual reports submitted 1974  
Folder 27: Annual reports submitted 1976  
Folder 28: Rosters (ca. 1960-61), Part One  
Folder 29: Rosters (ca. 1960-61), Part Two

**Box 3 Series IV: Accounting Ledgers and Treasurer's Records**

**(See also Series IX: Oversize)**

Folder 30: Treasurer's reports 1949-1969  
Folder 31: Notebooks (2) of Dues and Expenses 1938-[1952]  
Ledger: Treasurer's Book 1933-1943  
Ledger: Treasurer's Book 1946-1960  
Ledger: 1959-1963

**Box 4 Series V: Activities, Education, and Outreach**

Folder 32: Scrapbook contents of Dorothy G. Morse, 1959-1961  
Folder 33: Event programs and brochures  
Folder 34: News clippings  
Folder 35: Junior Garden clubs and readers  
Folder 36: Courses and workshops

**Series VI: Plant Inventories and Surveys**

Folder 37: Plant identification and inventories  
Folder 38: Plant surveys  
Folder 39: Shrub Project, 1951 (2 copies)

**Series VII: Publications (See Series IX: Oversize for NHFGC Publications)**

- Folder 40: Audubon Society pamphlets (2 items)
  - Folder 41: National Gardener excerpts about New Hampshire
  - Folder 42: NH seacoast guides (3 items)
  - Folder 43: NH Troubadour (3 issues)
  - Folder 44: University of NH articles (2 items)
  - Folder 45: Garden clubs in other states
- See also Box 8 and 9 for the Bulletin of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and The National Gardener magazine

**Box 5 Series VIII: Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics: Radio Club Broadcasts from New Jersey, 1938-1940**

**Note:** The material in this series was already bound in hand-tied volumes which were not organized chronologically or alphabetically. The two notebooks have indexes inside the front covers.

- Folder 46: [first page dated January 2, 1939]
- Folder 47: [first page dated February 3, 1939]
- Folder 48: [first page dated April 29, 1940]
- Notebook [1]: [first page dated December 1, 1939]
- Notebook [2]: [first page dated January 1940]

**Series IX: Oversized Documents and Realia**

**Box 6: Oversized Papers from Series II, IV, and VII**

- Folder 49: Oversized papers from Series II: Articles of Incorporation and Exempt Status, letter of deposit to NHSL Accounting Ledger: oversized ledger from Series IV: 1965-1972
- Folder 50: Oversized papers from Series VII: Conservation Notes Newsletter, 1954-1957
- Folder 51: Oversized papers from Series VII: The Garden Gate Newsletter 1938-1941
- Folder 52: Oversized papers from Series VII: Nature Chats Newsletter [undated]
- Folder 53: from Series VII: Lilac Letter 1947-77

**Box 7: Oversized Realia from Series II: the Seal of the Federation**

**6 Scrapbooks:** 1939-1952 (individually wrapped and shelved)

- Scrapbook 1: 1939-1941 - "The Lilac Book of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs", compiled by Kathleen K. Mullen, historian from October 1939-October 1941
- Scrapbook 2: 1944-1948

Scrapbook 3: 1948-1949  
Scrapbook 4: 1949-1950  
Scrapbook 5: 1950-1951 [includes CD-ROM and pamphlets]  
Scrapbook 6: 1951-1952

**Box 8:** Bulletin of the National Council of State Garden Clubs:  
March 1939-March 1948;  
The National Gardener: Nov/Dec. 1964-May/June 1972

**Box 9:** The National Gardener: July/August 1972-May/June 1977

**Drawer File Folio:**

[1] Design for NH governor's garden, prepared for the International Flower Show in San Francisco by landscape architect Marion T. Spaulding, 1952  
Partially colored, two sides, 34x49 cm.

[2] Book plate of the Library of the Federation, made by Prof. Frank Marston of Claremont, presented to Mrs. Ralph A. Burns of Hanover, Librarian of the Federation, 1938; given to New Hampshire State Library by Mrs. Burns in October 1957 Colored, 59 x 43 cm.

**Other Resources at NHSL:** Lilac Letter (journal of the NHFGC)  
NHSL call no.: 635.93371 N532 (1947-present)