

Outline of the  
HISTORICAL RECORD OF:

AAUW-1950

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE ALUMNAE - 1882-1921

1881: November 28th, 17 young women college graduates met to organize an association of women college graduates, with headquarters in Boston. They were from eight colleges - Boston University, Smith, Wellesley, Oberlin, Vassar, Cornell, University of Michigan and University of Wisconsin. They met at M.I.T.

1882: January 14th a general meeting of the alumnae of the eight colleges. 65 women were present. A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. Object: "To unite alumnae of different institutions for practical educational work." Marion Talbot, the founder, became the first secretary, an office she held for 14 years.

During 1882 four other colleges were admitted: M.I.T., Wesleyan College (Connecticut), Syracuse and University of Kansas.

1883: Northwestern University admitted. On December 1st the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae was organized in Chicago as an independent association and not as a branch, as was originally expected.

1884: Washington, D.C. became the first branch.

1886: January, New York City Branch; then the so-called Pacific Branch, later called the California Branch, and now the San Francisco Bay Branch; May, Philadelphia Branch; October, Boston Branch.

1889: The Association of Collegiate Alumnae had met in different cities, and in 1889, in October, it met in Buffalo, New York. The Western Association met with it and decided to merge with it. Three new branches became members: Chicago, Minnesota, and the Central New York Branch (Syracuse).

Mrs. George Townsend, President of the Buffalo Women's Educational and Industrial Union, called upon the college women of the city to assist her in entertaining the combined meeting. At that time there were in Buffalo only eight college women eligible for membership, and of that number only five had gone to college from Buffalo.

This little group was the nucleus for the formation of the Western New York Branch, as it was called at the time and until 1921. Five women attended the first meeting of this group - Harriet Ransom Milinowski (Mrs.), Lena Hill Severance (Mrs.), Mary M. Wardwell, Maude Austin, and Ella C. Lapham. This group became the officers with the exception of Mrs. Severance, who became Chairman for Educational Legislation. Mrs. Milinowski became President, and Miss Wardwell, Secretary.

1890: October, Western New York Branch became the tenth branch, Detroit having been admitted earlier in the year.

The first undertaking of the newly-formed branch was to assist in the development of the University of Buffalo, with assistance to the endowment fund. They interested young women in going to college, conducted important investigations, collaborated in gathering statistics, took a hand in educational legislation, and cooperated in bringing to Buffalo lecturers of distinction, among them President Elliott of Harvard.

1893 The work of establishing home libraries in the poorer portions of the City of Buffalo was carried on, with encouraging results. Two libraries were in operation. Members of the branch visited them regularly once a week, spending an hour or two with the children over the books and playing games.

Mrs. Milinowski seems to have served as President until 1893, when Mrs. Seward Simon became President. Mrs. Edward Mason succeeded her in 1895.

1898 The oldest roster on file - 55 members. Miss L. 1899: Gertrude Angell was a member, and it is believed she held membership the longest of anyone in Buffalo - over 52 years. Miss Mary Dudley was President. 1898-1900, Miss Hallie Poole was Chairman of a Committee on Manual Training and Domestic Science; Miss Angell was on the Membership Committee (1898-1899). The next year Miss Poole was Chairman of the Press, and Miss Angell of High Schools.

1900 President was Miss Hallie Poole. Meetings were held 1904: in homes. Membership ranged from 62 to 76. In 1902 the College Creche was started.

1904 President was Mrs. Lewis Wright Simpson. In 1906 1906: management of the creche was carried on by the Creche Board. The increased number of children cared for demonstrated the growing usefulness of the creche, but also meant substantial increases in expenses. Rent-free premises were secured to operate again a lunchroom for four weeks preceding Christmas holidays.

At the first meeting in October a committee was appointed to consider action necessary to participate in the university movement. At a later special meeting the committee submitted three resolutions, all carried: (1) that the Branch

pledge a sum of money to be raised by members' subscriptions; (2) that college alumnae in neighboring towns be invited to join the movement; (3) that when a College of Liberal Arts was founded, the Branch should furnish a scholarship.

Efforts made to form a College Club in Buffalo to be comprised of non-members as well as members of the Branch. Response from non-members encouraging.

1907 President was Mrs. Lucien Howe. Fellowship Fund \$200.00.  
1909: Needs of Buffalo Public Schools defined as a truant school, medical care, ungraded rooms for defective children, and vocational schools. Branch joined City Federation of Women's Clubs, but rejected invitation to join Western Federation.

In 1907 work with the creche continued. Families of children cared for at the creche were interviewed at their homes. A need for a kindergarten was recognized and one established at another creche.

Committees were formed to look into arts, crafts, potentialities, etc. of foreign settlements in Buffalo.

In 1908 the Educational Legislation Committee worked to secure retirement pensions for Normal School teachers and will continue their efforts. The College Creche continued successfully, caring for 4,072 children at a cost of \$1,300.00. Further studies of living conditions of children registered in the creche, and reports filed with Bureau of Social Investigations, together with reports by Committee on Peasant Handicrafts. Sanitary conditions of 23 city public schools investigated and a report filed with the Tuberculosis Committee of Charity Organization Society and the Superintendent of Education.

In 1909 the creche, organized and maintained for seven years by the Branch, was transferred to another body, together with equipment and \$350.00.

The Committee on Educational Legislation secured increased appropriations for Normal Schools and continued to work toward a pension system. The Branch continued its efforts to alter conditions among college preparatory students.

The Committee on the Alice Freeman Palmer Fellowship worked toward making a further contribution to that fund.

1910 : President Miss L. Gertrude Angell.

1911:

1911 President Mrs. C. N. Millard. Resolution was adopted  
1912: that the A.C.A. favored formation of a Buffalo Board of  
Education, then non-existent, on which there should be women,  
appointed by the Mayor, to serve for a term of from three to  
five years, without pay.

Committee worked closely with the University toward the  
Greater University of Buffalo. \$150.00 given toward education of  
a Buffalo girl.

Suggestion that the whole country be divided into ten  
sections, with a Vice President for each section.

1912 President Mrs. Thomas B. Carpenter. Associate members  
1913: admitted. Increased membership taxed the capacity of  
members' homes used for meetings. Availability, rentals, etc.  
of various buildings, clubs, schools, etc. investigated as pos-  
sible meeting places.

Large and energetic committee appointed to start campaign  
to secure members for a College Club, to consider methods of or-  
ganizing and financing same and of securing suitable meeting place.

1913 President Miss Elsa James (Mrs. Albert H. Garvin). In  
1915: January motion was made to set up a permanent scholar-  
ship fund to assist students wishing to borrow money and pay it  
back later.

Motion that a committee be empowered to draft working  
plans for the organization of a College Club and to submit plans  
for such a Club and for a Club House for the A.C.A.

A Constitution was adopted for a College Club for women  
in Buffalo. Membership in A.C.A. 180. First meeting of the A.C.A.  
in October 1914 was held at the College Club House, rented at 163  
Park Street. Meetings of A.C.A. were held there until 1922. All  
A.C.A. members were admitted to the College Club without initiation  
fees.

\$350.00 given as scholarship.

1915 President Mrs. Frederick K. Wing. Regular meetings were  
1916: held on the first Tuesday of each month from October to  
May. Membership 169. Most speakers at meetings were college  
presidents. Booklet published containing names of officers,  
standing committee personnel, programs, membership, Constitution  
and By-Laws.

1916 President Dr. Carro Croff. Scholarships of \$350.00  
1918: to be divided between two. Resolution passed for the  
betterment of sanitary conditions in public schools. Endorsed the  
wider use of school buildings.

A.C.A. endowed a bed for the Red Cross Base Hospital.  
Red Cross work done by A.C.A. and College Club members two after-  
noons a week. Education Committee became War Relief Group.

In October 1916, a pioneer sectional conference was  
held in Boston. Dr. Croff and Mrs. Severance represented Western  
New York Branch.

Course in instruction of women voters at Townsend Hall  
for \$1.00. College women who speak more than one language urged  
to attend and then instruct the foreign population on duties of  
citizenship.

Resolution to ask City Council to increase salaries of  
our public school teachers. 22 colleges represented in member-  
ship of Branch. Membership 162.

1918 President Mrs. Lewis J. Burns. Three French women stu-  
1920: dents at D'Youville College sent to this country by their  
government to receive the education offered in scholarships by  
American colleges.

Programs devoted to war work.

Bill before Congress to create a Department of Education  
in the Cabinet with appropriation of \$100 million for better edu-  
cation for all.

Resolution to cooperate with Board of Education in its  
new public school building project.

April 1919, funds used for scholarships to be considered  
as loans and to be repaid as soon as possible by recipient.

Membership 142.

New York State Division formed in 1920. State Conference  
held at Ithaca to consider reorganization of National A.C.A.

Endorsed Normal School Salary Bill for increased salary  
of teachers. Motion that married women be permitted to teach in  
our schools. Motion that School Board be urged to increase sub-  
stitute teachers' pay to \$5.00 in elementary grades and \$6.00 in  
high school. National Club House established in Washington, D.C.  
I.F.U.W. formed by British, American and Canadian Branches.

1920 President was Mrs. Berend J. Burns. In 1920 nearly  
1922: \$2,000.00 was raised for a scholarship, \$500.00 for  
the endowment fund, \$200.00 for Women's Medical Colleges of the  
Orient, \$270 for Armenian Relief, and \$27.00 for the Madame Curie  
Radium Fund, toward a gram of radium from women of America.

A.C.A. working to establish a Dean of Women and a Director of Physical Education at U.B. U.B. Council to secure a Chancellor. Members appointed to City Planning Committee, also a committee to create closer ties between A.C.A. and College Club. Three major goals: raise standard of education; participate in International Federation; establish national clubhouse in Washington. Became Buffalo Branch instead of Western New York.

1922 President Mrs. George H. Camehl. Chancellor Capen and  
1924: Dean of Women Lillias MacDonald came to U.B. \$575 raised toward furnishing U.B. women's room in Foster Hall. Graduates of U.B. Liberal Arts and Medical School (with two years' Liberal Arts) admitted as Associate Members.

Committee to study Buffalo Federation Constitution with aim to amendments more representative of public opinion. Scholarships continued for women attending U.B. and other colleges. Membership 201.

1924 President Mrs. Malcolm Baird. Barnard Club 100% member-  
1926: ship in AAUW. Buffalo Branch subscribed its quota, \$1244, for national clubhouse. Lockport, Niagara Falls, East Aurora, St. Catharines and Toronto reported on their work at annual banquet.

Recommendation from Guggenheim Foundation that AAUW change its support from scholarships to fellowships. Outstanding work for year, contributing to Washington clubhouse, U.B. Fund and two scholarships. Education Committee surveyed schools in Erie, Niagara, Genesee and Wyoming Counties regarding history text books. Women's room at U.B. Medical School refurnished with surplus funds from Foster Hall room.

1926 President Mrs. Thurman W. Stoner. Dean MacDonald pre-  
1928: sented resolution recommending to AAUW that U.B. be considered for national membership.

Constitution and by-laws revised April 1927. Programs for the year concentrated on U.B. Schools of Music, Education, Library, Dramatics. Paid \$525 on pledge to national clubhouse. Child Study Group formed, others being considered. Membership 282. Joint meeting of College Club and AAUW to formulate plan to unite. Not accepted, but many members favored one club in Buffalo for college women.

1928 President Mrs. Henry T. Upson. International Relations  
1930: Committee formed. Study groups in Modern Literature, Gardening, and Child Psychology formed. National AAUW had \$100,000 in Fellowship Fund. U.B. accepted on accredited list at National Convention. \$1000 pledged to U.B. toward their \$5,000,000 drive.

1930 President Mrs. Justus Egbert. Meetings at variety of  
1932: places. Joint meetings with College Club for three months. New study groups in Elementary French, Music, Drama, Home Planning, and Comment Group.

Proposal to relieve disproportionate real property taxes. 50th anniversary of AAUW held in Boston, April 1931. Resolution to Board of Education to continue adult education evening classes. \$650 to Scholarships and \$1425 for Fellowship. 35 members to visit families on welfare. On January 20, 1932, Certificate of Incorporation signed by 15 AAUW members. New by-laws adopted March 1, 1932. Mrs. Herbert Hoover was entertained at luncheon. Membership 356.

1932 President Miss Ruth Witherstine (Mrs. Lurton F. Gottlieb).  
1934: Question of permanent clubrooms abandoned as impractical at the time. Invited National Biennial Convention to come to Buffalo in 1935. Delegate sent to Washington conference on cause and cure of war. 700 articles distributed through visits of Welfare Committee. Mass meeting of Women's International League for Peace at Townsend Hall. Support requested for Jane Keeler's Buffalo Players and Clare Tree Major Children's Theater. First mention of monthly bulletin. Radio programs given on WKBW. Junior group of AAUW organized.

1934 President Miss Catharine E. Reed. Profits on magazine  
1936: subscriptions turned over to Scholarship Fund. Valuable historical material recently collected given to Grosvenor Library for its archives. Resolution to use gifts by will or otherwise to assist women to further their education and to assist schools and colleges to improve education facilities. Education Advisory Committee did outstanding work.

1936 President Miss Henrietta M. Langner. New study groups,  
1938: Interior Decoration, Creative Writing, Antiques. Assembly programs in each high school as part of guidance program. Organization of Inter-Club Council on Guidance.

National AAUW conducting campaign for a \$1000 endowment fund for fellowships. \$11,478 expended by the Branch for scholarships. \$4,430 already repaid. Member attended conference on cause and cure of war. Survey made of art resources in community.

1938 President Mrs. C. Harold Hagstrom. Invitation to National  
1940: AAUW Biennial Convention to meet in Buffalo in 1941. Buffalo State Teachers College placed on accredited list. International Relations Group on "Town Meetings of the Air" program. First Achievement Award given to Mrs. Adelbert Moot in May 1940.

Became member of Conservation Forum, with Inter-Club Council representative. First year to publish bulletin. Radio program every two weeks. Spanish study group formed. Membership 556.

1940 President Mrs. John T. Horton. Special meeting in July to  
1942: consider British Federation request that AAUW members care for their children for duration of war. Meeting held with International Institute, Red Cross, Y.W.C.A., Children's Aid and

Council of Social Agencies. A Central Committee to cooperate with all groups. National Headquarters reported 2000 AAUW members offered their homes, as well as at least 100 of their friends.

National Fellowship Awards have been made every year since the first in 1890. Achievement Award in 1941 to Miss Jane Keeler. Educational Advisory Committee worked with Junior Chamber of Commerce.

War Relief and Defense Committee set up. Donation of books for Victory Book Drive. Classes in Nutrition, Home Nursing, First Aid. Collection for subscriptions to Readers Digest for use at Fort Niagara. War Bond Booth in Hotel Statler. Bought \$3700 Series F War Bonds. Set up model blackout room in Historical Society Building. Financial and hostess help at Induction Center. Telephone Committee worked hard. \$25.00 to Ambulance Fund. Scholarship Fund, 51 loans of over \$20,000 in 22 years. Membership 564.

1942 President Mrs. William N. Sossong. Radio programs -  
1944: "Winning Wars on the Home Front" and "Post-War Planning for You and Me." AAUW members took course to explain ration point system in various stores throughout city. Fellowship contributions added to membership dues. \$364 sent to State Fellowship Fund in 1944. Received Treasury Award of Achievement from Erie County Savings Committee for greatest percentage of membership being regular bond purchasers (90%). Achievement Award for 1943 to Mrs. Stephan Merrill Clement. Emphasis on legislative affairs stressed.

1944 President Mrs. Charles E. Hathorn. Open meeting on Edu-  
1946: cation - "Post War Education in U.S." - "GI Bill of Rights." Special fund started to obtain permanent meeting place. Studio Theatre plays were sponsors both years for this fund. \$319 cleared.

Gift scholarship in honor of Mildred E. Ross of \$100 a year to an entering freshman, this scholarship to continue for five years.

Sponsored "I Am An American Day" program, also sold tickets for Buffalo Philharmonic. Non-travel convention held 1944. Resolution that Branch endeavor to reach a broader understanding of our minority groups and thus our international relations, considered to be a distinctive contribution of University women as an organized group.

Over \$1,000,000 sold at Bond Booth in 3-1/2 years. AAUW sold most bonds in Book and Author Day Victory Loan Drive and received several original manuscripts to present to State Teachers and U.B. libraries. Proposed increased budgets for Buffalo libraries. Sent food and clothing to University women in Europe. Achievement Award 1945 to Mrs. Austin L. Kimball.