

Women's History Resource Guide

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This handout provides information on selected historical regional manuscript collections, published works, and encyclopedic companions maintained by the [Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives](#), and the [Lydia M. Olson Library](#). These collections provide significant documentation of a wide variety of subjects related to significant women, women's issues, and related legislation and studies in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Where available, links are provided to descriptions of manuscript collections. This Guide is not comprehensive, and researchers should contact the NMU Archives or Olson Library for more information. Researchers may also wish to search or browse the Archives' online collection management tool, [ArchivesSpace](#), and the Library's online catalog, [One Search](#).

Historical Regional Manuscript Collections:

1. American Association of University Professors, Committee W. Records
MSS-001, 1981-1999, 1 Cubic Foot

Committee W is a standing committee of the NMU – AAUP Executive Committee with the purpose of examining employment practices affecting women faculty at NMU. Committee W. may also recommend actions to NMU administration to eliminate sex discrimination in any area within the university where evidence indicates it exists. The collection includes minutes, agendas, correspondence, and reports.

2. American Association of University Women, Marquette Branch Records
MSS-163, 1926-2011, 4.25 Cubic Feet

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) was formed in 1881, and has since established over 1,000 branches partnered with over 800 universities. By bringing attention to gender equality in education and the workplace, the AAUW has served as a channel for activism concerning women's issues in higher education. The collection includes agendas, financial statements, membership directories, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photographs, publications, reports and miscellaneous other documents concerning the Marquette branch.

3. [Beta Omega Tau Records](#)
MSS-121, 1929-1989; 1929-1948, 4 folders

Beta Omega Tau was a sorority at Northern Michigan University. The collection provides insight into campus life for women at NMU from 1929-1989, and includes minutes and photographs. Meeting minutes consist of the Beta Omega Tau constitution, pledge rituals and lists of members and officers.

4. [Bethany Lutheran Church Papers](#)
MSS-303, 1800-2000, 24 boxes

The Bethany Lutheran Church was established in 1870 in Ishpeming, Michigan by a group of Swedish immigrants. The collection documents various women's groups established by the church as well as women in leadership positions within the church. The collection includes various administrative and financial records and reports, publications and bulletins, photographs, and correspondence. Early records are in Swedish, while later records are in English.

5. [Cegmer Segs and Zeta Chi Phi Sorority Records](#)
MSS-137, 1933-1960, 3 boxes

This collection documents the activities of the Cegmer Seg Sorority, later the Zeta Chi Phi Sorority. Records include, but are not limited to, receipts documenting various activities, meeting minutes, member and attendance rosters, pledging ritual, and photographs documenting student life at NMU from 1933-1960.

6. [DeFant, Geraldine Papers](#)
MSS-027, 1946-1990, 5 folders

Geraldine DeFant was a prominent Upper Peninsula union organizer, politician and women's rights advocate. She served as the organizer for the International Ladies' Garment Workers union where she organized and led the 1949 Gossard Workers strike. She was the Democratic chairwoman of the 11th Congressional District, and as an aide to Senators Phillip Hart and Donald Riegle. She was also one of the founders of the Marquette Women's Center and served on its board of directors. The collection includes a taped oral interview with DeFant, a transcript of the interview, and copies of a scrapbook and photographs.

7. [Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Delta Chapter Records](#)
MSS-079, 1938-2000, 2 Cubic Feet

Delta Kappa Gamma Society is an organization of women educators founded in 1929, with the Delta Chapter being established in Marquette in 1939. The society works on legislation, education support and scholarships at the local, state and national levels. The collection includes correspondence, group meeting minutes, membership lists, files related to the Future Teach Sponsorship, Save the Children Foundation Chapter Organization records, membership transfer applications, newsletters, various publications, and collection of bulletins from the state and national organizations, and

scrapbooks with meeting programs, new clippings, correspondence, and photographs of the Delta Chapter.

8. [Delta Sigma Nu Scrapbook](#)
MSS-082, 1957-1961, 1 volume

Delta Sigma Nu was a student sorority at Northern Michigan University. The collection includes a scrapbook that documents many of Delta Sigma Nu's activities, such as rush, various parties and the creation of ice sculptures. Items in the scrapbook include photographs, membership lists and correspondence.

9. [Eklund, Helen and Ebba Papers](#)
MSS-300, 1925-1941; 1925-1938, 5 folders

Helen and Ebba Eklund attended Northern State Normal College/Northern State Teachers College (Northern Michigan University). They were both involved with many on campus events. The collection includes memorabilia for Sorority events, Rush Day and other college-related social events, lists of college courses and copies of Northern Newspapers from 1934-1938.

10. [Elizabeth Mather Scrapbook](#)
MSS-361, 1923-1925, 1 folder

Elizabeth Mather graduated from Northern State Normal School (Northern Michigan University) in 1925, and was a member of the French Club and the Forum Debating Society. The scrapbook includes dance cards, letters of invitation, dance memorabilia, programs for commencements, plays and concerts, an assortment of class instructions and teaching guides from NMU for Fall 1924 and Spring 1925, and photographs of Mather's friends and classmates.

11. [Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan Records](#)
MSS-031, 1894-1994; 1940-1994, 24 Cubic Feet

The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan expanded into Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1836. The collection documents, among other things, Diocesan Women's Groups, the ordination of women, photographs of Episcopal Church women and presentations given by women on the church. The collection documents the activities of the Diocese since it expanded into Northern Michigan in 1836, including theological movements, historical people, everyday sermons, correspondence, annual events, miscellaneous church members, and general maintenance of the Diocese.

12. [Hallfrisch, Frances Scrapbook](#)
MSS-306, 1924-1925, 1 folder

Frances Hallfrisch was a student of Northern State Normal College in the 1920's. The materials in the scrapbook showcase people, events and activities from Frances' time at

NMU. The scrapbook was photographed before it was disassembled for preservation purposes. Pages contain newspaper and magazine clippings about sororities, and other campus related events, and an index of names.

13. [Italian American Oral History Project](#)
MSS-202, 1982-2002, 19 Cubic Feet

The Italian American Oral History Project collected oral histories from Italian American immigrants to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Many of the interviewers, and interviewees, were women among the Italian American Community. The collection includes eighty oral histories which have been digitized and exist at the NMU Archives as well as the Olson Library catalog, the Bentley Library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. There are numerous oral histories in the collection which have not yet been digitized, though are still available to researchers physically.

14. [Kinnunen, Sylvia Papers](#)
MSS-138, 1920-2005, 2.25 Cubic Feet

Sylvia Kinnunen received a B.S. degree from Northern Michigan College of Education, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. She joined the faculty at NMU and retired as a professor in the Department of Education in 1981. She established the Committee for Women in Academe (the predecessor of Committee W of the NMU - AAUP). The collection includes materials from her personal and professional life including photographs, correspondence and teaching materials.

15. [Losey, Elizabeth Browne Beard Papers](#)
MSS-004, 1897-2004, 13 Manuscript Boxes

Losey was a biologist and ornithologist (the study of birds) employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Commission beginning in 1947 after a teaching career at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She was a resident of Germfask, MI located on the Seney National Wildlife Refuge where she conducted her research, and was the first female field biologist on the Seney Wildlife Refuge. The collection includes her technical reports, newspaper clippings, government documents, popular journal articles, and miscellaneous publications related to indigenous mammal and bird populations of the UP. The focus of the entire collection is on wildlife management, particularly concerning birds.

16. Marquette Federation of Women's Clubs Records
MSS-156, 1920-2007, 2 Cubic Feet

The Marquette Federation of Women's Clubs formed in 1926 in Marquette, Michigan. It serves as an umbrella organization for numerous women's groups in the Marquette area. The collection includes correspondence, financial reports, activity reports, meeting minutes, photographs, news clippings, programs, flyers, caretaker logs, club forms and

membership lists and publications of the Marquette Federation of Women's Clubs from 1920 through 2007, with the bulk of the collection being from the 1980s and 1990s.

17. [Northern Michigan University Women Records](#)

MSS-239, 1926-2007, 4 Cubic Feet

Established in 1926 as the Faculty Wives Club for all wives of university staff, Northern Michigan University Women now includes all wives of university staff as well as all women faculty and staff members. The organization focuses on social and educational activities that develop friendships and a spirit of service to the university and the community. The collection includes constitutions, agendas, correspondence, membership lists and directories, minutes, newsletters and financial materials including treasurer reports.

18. [Pythian Sisters of Ishpeming Records](#)

MSS-010, 1960-1968, 2 Cubic Feet

The Pythian Sisters is a fraternal order with members throughout the United States and Canada. Women must be age 16 or older, speak English and believe in a supreme being, though they are not tied to any belief in particular. They conduct rituals, and are engaged in altruistic efforts to provide opportunities to women of diverse backgrounds. The collection includes a minute book with records from 1960-1968, and meeting attendance records for 1963-1964.

19. [Russo, Nancy School Memorabilia](#)

MSS-129, 1936-1939, 1 item

Nancy Russo was an NMU alum who attended Northern from 1936 to 1939 and collected programs for the Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, Student Girls League Programs, a 1939 senior booklet and a wallet size photograph of Pete Ellis.

20. [Women's Campaign File Collection](#)

MSS-007, 1966-1984, 46 Cubic Feet

The Women's Campaign File contains campaign material for various female candidates for regional and state political office between 1972 and 1995. It is an artificial collection constructed by the NMU archivist as part of a series of exhibits sponsored by the NMU Commission for Women for Women's History Month in 1995. The collection includes campaign fliers, newspaper clippings, correspondence and informational flyers.

21. [Women's Center Oral History Collection](#)

MSS-302, 2013-2014, 21 recordings

Jane Ryan conducted and produced the Women's Center Oral histories in 2013-2014 as part of the Center's 40th anniversary. The Women's Center began as part of NMU's Office of Continuing Education. NMU ceased funding the Women's Center in 1980, and

it was reorganized as a non-profit community organization in Marquette, Michigan. Interviews describe how and why the Women's Center was established, and discusses the nature of early educational workshops and programs benefiting women and families. The collection includes interviews under various labels including Founding Mothers, Volunteers, Training and Services and Women's Center Staff. More interviews are planned in the future which will be added to the collection.

Researchers may be interested in the following archival collections related to the Women's Center during its years at NMU: John X. Jamrich papers, MSS-050; Office of the President, General Subject Correspondence, Record Series 0200-01; Office of the Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs, Record Series 2000-01.

22. [Wong, Phyllis Papers](#)

MSS-299, 2004-2012, 5 Cubic Feet

Phyllis Wong is the wife of former NMU President Dr. Les Wong. She obtained a B.S. degree from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and went on to earn a master's degree in American history and American literature from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. The collection includes photographs, news clippings and memorabilia of various events that Phyllis Wong participated in while at NMU, as well as four audiocassettes and two CD-Rs separated from the rest of the collection.

23. [Zonta Club of Marquette Records](#)

MSS-006, 1983-2004, 7 Cubic Feet

Zonta International is an organization of professional women working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Specifically Zonta International seeks to improve the legal, political, economic, health, educational and professional status of women. The Zonta Club of Marquette and held its first meeting on November 14, 1972. The collection includes correspondence, financial records, committee records, audit reports, meeting minutes and agendas, newsletters, membership records, annual reports, bylaws correspondence, committee records and International District reports of the Zonta Club in Marquette, Michigan.

Published works:

Hewitt, Nancy A. [A Companion to American Women's History](#). Oxford; Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002.

A Companion to American Women's History provides essays by women's history scholars that highlight important scholarship on key debates. Essays provide information on many important eras and topics such as colonial families, marriage, health, sexuality, education, immigration, work, consumer culture, feminism etc. An expanded bibliography is also included to help guide further research.

Magnaghi, Russell M. [*Portals to the Past: A Bibliographical and Resource Guide to Michigan's Upper Peninsula*](#). Marquette, MI: Center for Upper Peninsula Studies, 2011.

Dr. Magnaghi's bibliographic resource is a guide to a litany of topics including, among many other things, agriculture, immigration, industry, travel, religion and activities in the UP during times of national importance. This collection of resources can be accessed via nmu.edu/archives/subject-bibliographies under [The Upper Peninsula Bibliography](#).

Magnaghi, Russell M. [*Miners, Merchants, and Midwives: Michigan's Upper Peninsula Italians*](#). Marquette, MI: Belle Fontaine Press, 1987.

Dr. Magnaghi's exploration into the Italians of the Upper Peninsula provides important insight into immigrant history and culture. Topics include genealogy, to religion, politics and organizational studies.

Mankiller, Wilma Pearl. [*Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women*](#). Golden, CO: Fulcrum Pub., 2004.

Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women portrays the thoughts of nineteen prominent Native artists, educators and activists on what it means to be a Native American woman in the early 21st century.

Mann, Barbara Alice. [*Daughters of Mother Earth: The Wisdom of Native American Women*](#). Westport, CN: Praeger, 2006.

Daughters of Mother Earth: The Wisdom of Native American Women is a collection of essays that seeks to tear down and reestablish the societal context with which we view Native American history. She argues that Euro-American discourse styles emphasize elite male privilege and conceptual linearity that misrepresent women-centered Native American approaches, and reframe Native American history in an appropriate context.

Newburg, Heather. "[Empowering Voices: Native American Women's Autobiography](#)." Thesis (M.A.), Northern Michigan University, 1995.

Heather Newburg examines the way in which minority narratives are viewed and how those narratives came about. She provides a historical context for, and methods of, critically examining Native American women's autobiographies. An example of a critical analysis of a Native American autobiography is provided.

Riecki, Ronald and Alison Swan, eds. [*Here: Women Writing on Michigan's Upper Peninsula*](#). Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2015.

This book presents an extensive, though not exhaustive, list of women authors in the UP ranging from the early 1800's through the current day. Pieces are separated into season based on their content and emotional context as interpreted by the editors.

