

**25 COLLECTIONS FOR 25 YEARS:**

*SELECTIONS FROM THE  
IOWA WOMEN'S ARCHIVES*

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**SEPTEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 29, 2017**





**MARY LOUISE SMITH & LOUISE NOUN**, founders of the Iowa Women's Archives, ca. 1995

# A BRIEF HISTORY *of the Archives*

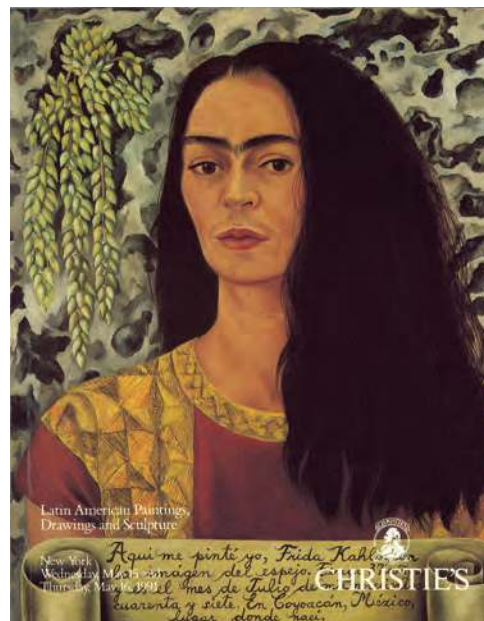
**O**n October 28, 1992 the Louise Noun – Mary Louise Smith Iowa Women’s Archives opened to the public, fulfilling Louise Noun’s longtime dream of establishing an archives that would preserve the history of Iowa women.

The idea came to her in the 1960s when she was researching her first book *Strong-Minded Women: The Emergence of the Woman-Suffrage Movement in Iowa*. Struggling to find sources within the state, she visited the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College, and thought to herself “We need a women’s archives in Iowa!” But life intervened, as Noun became a leader in the Iowa Civil Liberties Union and in the women’s movement.

The idea gained new life in April 1990 over a lunch in Des Moines’ French Quarter restaurant that brought together Louise Noun, Mary Louise Smith, Des Moines Register reporter Carol Rose, and Episcopalian priest Suzanne Peterson. As Louise Noun later recalled,

“Although I had known Mary Louise through her activities in the women’s movement, our paths did not cross very often. It was during the course of this lunch that she and I discovered our mutual interest in founding an Iowa Women’s Archives and we immediately started planning how we could make this dream a reality. I give Mary Louise full credit for shepherding this concept through all the proper channels at the University of Iowa and doing it in just the right way and at the proper time. I came along as supporting cast. Thus began our close relationship.”

University Librarian Sheila Creth unequivocally supported the idea and allocated space on the Main Library’s 3rd floor. Louise Noun auctioned her treasured Frida Kahlo painting “Self-Portrait with Loose Hair” to create an endowment of \$1.5 million to permanently fund the Archives. Today the Iowa Women’s Archives holds more than 1200 collections that illuminate the experiences of Iowa women from all walks of life.



Christie’s catalog, 1991

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EXHIBITION

After 25 years of collecting we pause to reflect on the ways that faculty, students, and other researchers have used the collections of the Iowa Women's Archives (IWA). This exhibition is driven by their choices and insights. Their comments can be found in the exhibition and accompanying guide. Their selections represent a tiny fraction of the collections in the Archives, providing a glimpse into its holdings and illuminating the many ways the Archives has enriched teaching and research in Iowa and elsewhere. We are grateful to all of the Iowa women and families who have so generously donated their photos, writings, reflections, and other papers over the past quarter century.

—Kären Mason, Curator

—Janet Weaver, Assistant Curator

*Unless otherwise noted, the commenters are affiliated with the University of Iowa. Comments were edited because of space limitations. The complete comments will be posted on the IWA blog over the coming months: <https://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/iwal>*

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## MILDRED WIRT BENSON PAPERS

Even before the Iowa Women's Archives (IWA) opened, the UI Libraries had a good start on a Mildred "Millie" Wirt Benson collection due to librarian Frank Paluka's correspondence with Millie in the 1960s on behalf of the Iowa Authors Collection. Together they compiled the first definitive list of the Nancy Drew books she secretly wrote as Carolyn Keene, and the library collected the Nancy Drews as well as the more than 100 other kids' series books she wrote. Scrapbooks, photo albums, letters and newspaper columns have since been added to the collection. Many researchers, writers, film makers and Nancy Drew fans who use the collection learn that Millie Benson was a lot like Nancy Drew. She could do almost anything almost perfectly. That's Millie in a flawless swan dive in the logo for the 25th anniversary of the IWA.

—Carolyn Stewart Dyer, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism & Mass Communication



Mildred Augustine (Benson) diving into Iowa River, 1920s

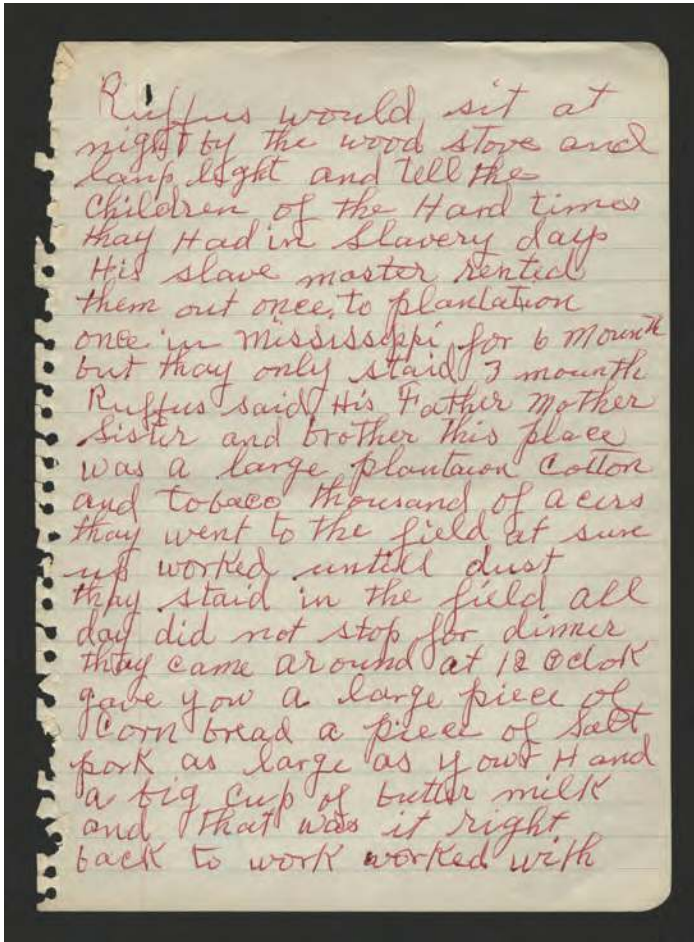


Helen Lemme

## HELEN LEMME PAPERS

The Iowa Women's Archives is an amazing resource for people interested in the history of Iowa women. The IWA has been an integral part of my teaching and research at the University of Iowa for many years. For my project at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, the Archives supplied stories from women across cultures who all called Iowa home. My students in prison loved learning about the variety of women in our state and then writing their own autobiographical stories. When the Iowa Juvenile Home for Girls closed after decades of operation, the IWA became the keepers of a collection of artwork made by the girls. Most recently, my daughter and students in her elementary school came to the Archives to explore the papers of Helen Lemme, for whom their school is named. The experience made Helen Lemme real for my daughter and her classmates.

—Rachel Marie-Crane Williams, Associate Professor, Department of Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies



## VIRGINIA HARPER PAPERS

Rosa Dandridge Pryor's notes from 1971 recount her family history, including the stories of slavery and freedom told to her by her formerly enslaved father, Rufus Dandridge. It is an extraordinary story, detailing slavery's violence, the chaos and uncertainties of wartime emancipation, and the challenges faced by former slaves who forged new lives in Iowa after the war. This remarkable narrative not only deeply informed my research, but has also found its way into my many classes on the history of slavery, the Civil War, and US women's history.

—Leslie Schwalm, Professor of History

Dandridge Family History, 1971

## CATHERINE SNEDEKER HILL PAPERS

As a new graduate student, I first visited the IWA as part of an assignment for Leslie Schwalm's 19th century US Race and Gender course. I chose the Catherine Snedeker Hill collection because it was one of the earliest in the archive. I was initially interested in the education of an antebellum woman from the Midwest. Instead of being sent 'back East' to be educated, Catherine Snedeker attended the Monticello Female Seminary in Illinois. The collection includes a large number of letters written to Catherine while she was attending school. Her senior year was 1862, which coincided with the Civil War. It is particularly interesting to see the Civil War through the eyes of a young woman and her family, away from the conflict.

—Susan Stanfield, Assistant Professor of History, University of Texas at El Paso

## CORA EVERSMEYER PAPERS

The highlight of my students' visits to the Iowa Women's Archives has always been family correspondence from the Cora Eversmeyer collection. Written in 19th century German script, the letters tell a poignant story of the sacrifices endured by immigrants in leaving their ancestral home. These documents, which the students can touch and hear crinkle in their hands, make history tangible in ways that textbooks or digital materials cannot.

—Glenn Ehrstine, Associate Professor of German

## MYRTLE HINKHOUSE PAPERS

The first time I went into the Iowa Women's Archives, part of the Myrtle Hinkhouse collection was clasped in my arms. Myrtle's great niece entrusted me with these papers after I convinced her that these documents belonged in an archives. Myrtle Hinkhouse was a medical missionary who served in China during the first half of the 20th century. Her collection includes a myriad of photographs, personal letters, missionary updates, medical reports, and beautiful artifacts collected during her many years in China.

—Rachel Black, Archives Assistant, Iowa Women's Archives



Rodriguez children in front of their boxcar home, Holy City, Bettendorf, 1928

## ERNEST AND ESTEFANÍA RODRIGUEZ PAPERS

Working on the Mujeres Latinas collections, I found sources that spoke to me and my own experience. The stories that inspire me most are the ones of growing up with non-English speaking immigrant parents who spend their entire lives working so their children can have better lives. As a daughter of immigrant parents, I find their resiliency contagious. These are stories of Latinx people living lives worthy of admiration, respect, and celebration.

—Maritza Lopez-Campos, Student Assistant, Iowa Women's Archives

## IOWA SUFFRAGE MEMORIAL COMMISSION RECORDS

The Iowa Suffrage Memorial Commission records are a true gem! I often begin a research project on a female artist expecting to find very little documentation of their working methods, but was delighted to find a detailed account of these politically astute women debating and deciding how best to represent their achievements in a work of public art. This collection has been crucial to my efforts to give the Iowa Suffrage Memorial the recognition it deserves through published research, public presentations, and exhibitions. What excites me the most is knowing that the IWA is custodian to historical collections like this and that it continues to actively seek out new material that represents overlooked voices.

—Lindsay Shannon, Assistant Professor of Art History, North Central College, Naperville, Illinois

Iowa Suffrage  
Memorial  
by artist  
Nellie Walker,  
1930s



## LOUISE LIERS PAPERS

The Iowa Women's Archives was a wonderful resource for students in my World War I seminar. Reading letters from soldiers and nurses, viewing posters, memorabilia, and scrapbooks, and combing through the Camp Dodge newspaper sparked students' historical imaginations. The collection of Louise Liers, an Army nurse from Clayton, Iowa, especially drew their attention and brought immediacy to the students' sense of the war and how it affected ordinary people.

—Mary Lou Emery, Professor Emerita, Department of English



Army nurses in France, World War I

The rich collections of nurses and their organizations are fueling my current research. The papers of Geraldene Felton, the first African American dean of nursing at the University of Iowa, include her reflections on the women's liberation movement and her scholarship on topics ranging from nurses' work with abortion to the physical demands of working night shifts. The breadth of IWA's collections enables me to offer new insights about the history of American nursing.

—Karissa Haugeberg, Assistant Professor of History, Tulane University

## CORA CALL WHITLEY PAPERS

I “met” Cora Call Whitley while I was researching my book on the history of Iowa's state park system. I knew that clubwomen had been strong allies in the conservation movement nationally, so I went looking for the records of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, as well as of individual women. I found several, including Cora Whitley. I eventually made contact with two of Whitley's grandsons. One—Whitley Hemingway—possessed a box of his grandmother's papers, which he shared with me. Her papers opened a window to the breadth of her activism on behalf of conservation, including the Outdoor Good Manners campaign she initiated in 1925 as chair of the General Federation of Women's Clubs' Forestry and Wildlife Refuge Committee. Realizing that this cache of personal papers had value beyond family history and my book, I asked Whit Hemingway to consider donating them to the Iowa Women's Archives. He didn't need any convincing. Ten days later, he sent them to the IWA noting, “It is very evident that the women of the United States, and [in] particular Mrs. Whitley, were about eighty years ahead of everybody else in their concerns about conservation and the environment.”

—Rebecca Conard, Professor of History Emeritus, Middle Tennessee State University



Cora Call Whitley



Clara Steen Skott

## CLARA STEEN SKOTT PAPERS

“What would Clara do?” I often asked myself after reading the diaries of Clara Steen Skott. This Iowa farm wife recounted her activities from the mundane to the adventurous over 82 years. She wrote about the weather, cows milked, food canned, poultry sent to market, garments made over, church guild and dairy cooperative meetings attended, and sick family members nursed. For my History of Medicine students, this collection offers a rare insight into the daily experiences of illness, accidents, and patterns of treatment for ordinary rural residents from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s.

—Jennifer Gunn, Associate Professor of History, University of Minnesota



Girls' Dance Team, Blue Triangle Branch,  
YWCA of Greater Des Moines, 1941

## YWCA OF GREATER DES MOINES RECORDS

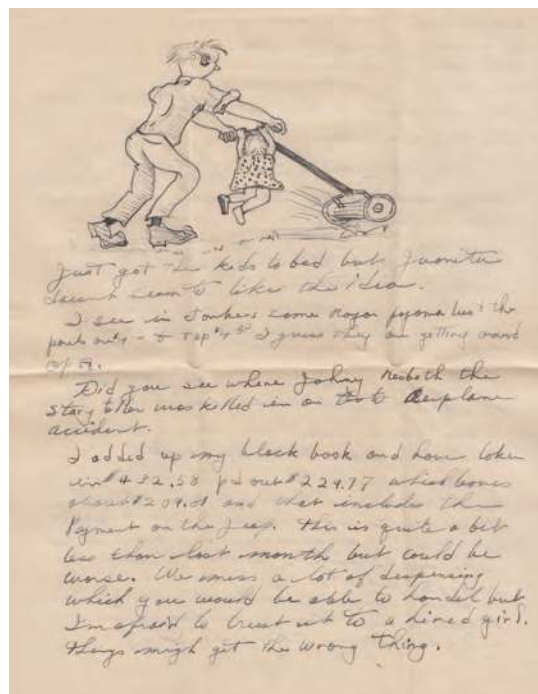
For me, this collection was a gateway into another world. It was the start of my exploration into the reading practices of the Book Lovers Club, a group of African American women who met on a regular basis at a branch of the YWCA to read and discuss books from the mid-20th century to the early 2000s. The collection holds scrapbooks, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, and mimeographed programs that list the titles and authors of books the Club chose to review – all of which brought these Iowa readers to life. But the collection also moved me to consider broader questions – to look at issues of race and desegregation, of urban renewal and the meaning of local community, and of gender, particularly in Des Moines from the 1930s to the 1950s. It was exciting to visit the present-day club and talk to current members about the group's history. The history of women, and especially black women, is always hard to recover. The IWA is a priceless resource, not just for researchers like me, but for students and members of the general public who are interested in exploring the past.

—Christine Pawley, Professor Emeritus, The Information School,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## JUDITH SUTCLIFFE PAPERS

Over the course of their courtship and marriage, Marjorie and Bill Sutcliffe exchanged many letters about Bill's work as a veterinarian in Audubon, Iowa, the challenges of farming, and the lives of the young daughters Marjorie left behind when tuberculosis forced yet another institutionalized rest cure. As someone studying the history of reading, I was excited to find that Marjorie also kept commonplace books where she noted what she was reading during her stays at the sanatorium in Kansas.

—Jennifer Burek Pierce, Associate Professor of Library and Information Science



Bill Sutcliffe letter to his wife Marjorie, 1946



Ben and Helen Tylee, 1929

## MAGDALENA "HELEN" TYLEE PAPERS

Born in rural Germany, Helen Gerhard spent the First World War in domestic service before marrying Ben Tylee, a young American soldier. Returning with him to his Iowa hometown in the 1920s, she spent the rest of her life farming and raising a family in Linn County. During World War II Helen managed the family farm and household on her own after Ben was called to active military duty. For the many native Iowans in my classes, Helen Tylee's experiences underscore the intimate connections between their supposedly provincial life and a broader global history.

—Scott Sulzener, PhD Candidate, History Department



## SHIRLEY BRIGGS PAPERS

I first met Shirley Briggs in the mid-1980s when I volunteered for the Rachel Carson Council in Chevy Chase, Maryland. As executive director of the Council, Briggs poured her energies into shepherding Carson's legacy as an environmentalist and writing the monumental *Basic Guide to Pesticides* (1992). When I began my research on Carson years later Shirley and I were already well-acquainted. The Shirley Briggs Papers at the Iowa Women's Archives include diaries and letters she shared with me sitting behind her father's old desk in her home office stacked floor to ceiling with books and papers of every sort. From the beautiful dioramas she did for the Natural History Museum to her Christmas bird counts at Glover Park, Briggs' papers give us a wonderful window into her artistic talent, energy, and humor. Her impressions of people, places, and events unabashedly recorded her own truths about life and the environment.

—Linda Lear, author of *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature* (1997)



Shirley Briggs, Roger Tory Peterson, and Rachel Carson in kayak.  
Sketch by Shirley Briggs.

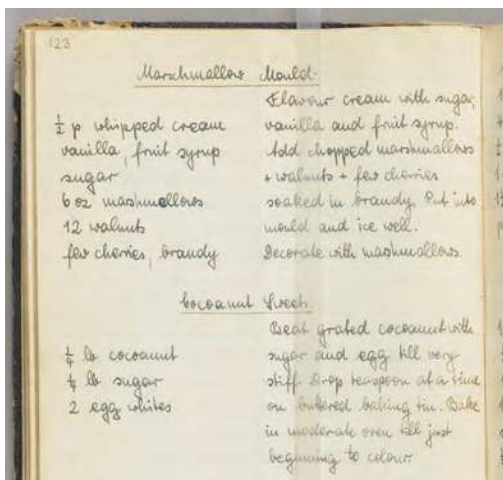
## EVELYN BIRKBY COLLECTION

My Rhetoric students enjoyed so much our exploration of the Evelyn Birkby World War II scrapbook. Students were fascinated by the correspondence Evelyn kept with soldiers fighting overseas and awaiting deployment in stateside camps. Reading letters about dances and concerts, world events, visits home, plans for the future, and daily life as a soldier, students felt connected to the experiences of people their own age at a time of war many decades ago.

—Matthew Gilchrist, Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Rhetoric



Evelyn Corrie (Birkby)  
dancing with soldier, World War II



Ruth Salzmann Becker recipe book

## RUTH SALZMANN BECKER PAPERS

One of the wonderful things about the Ruth Salzmann Becker collection is how it shows the blending of cultures that occurs with immigration. Born to a Jewish Socialist family in Berlin, Ruth fled Nazi Germany and became an activist for disabled children, racial justice, and feminist causes after settling in Iowa City. A recipe book that she started in Germany traveled with her to England, then New York, and finally Iowa. Over the years, the recipes changed, from German classics like Sauerbraten to my personal favorite: marshmallow salad. Even the handwriting changed, from an angular German script to rounded American letters.

—Elizabeth Heineman, Professor, History Department

## EDNA GRIFFIN PAPERS

The IWA has been an indispensable resource for undergraduate students conducting original research for classes like US women's history and The Sixties in America. The archives has rich records of diverse individual women and women's organizations. One example that leaps to mind is the collection of Edna Griffin, an African American who successfully campaigned to desegregate the Katz Drug Store in Des Moines in the late 1940s; an undergraduate from Des Moines wrote an excellent paper explaining the origins and significance of Griffin's campaign, which preceded the more famous Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott. Other research topics have included Iowa women's fight for voting rights, women's work on the WWII home front, and Iowa City's women's liberation groups. These rich materials have fascinated the diverse male and female undergraduates who learn to find and interpret historical evidence using these locally resonant papers.

—Landon Storrs, Professor, History Department



Katz Drug Store boycott, Des Moines, Iowa, 1948

## DOROTHY SCHRAMM PAPERS

When most people think of Iowa, they probably don't think of American race relations in a historical context. In my research, I was surprised to discover that Burlington, Iowa, had conducted a community survey to assess the treatment of black residents in the 1950s. The papers of Dorothy Schramm, who led this effort, reveal how she tried to synergize local and international efforts to secure racial parity and human rights for all peoples. The Iowa Women's Archives collections related to civil rights offer rich insight into Iowa women—and men—who were true activists and community organizers.

—Katrina Sanders, Associate Professor, College of Education

## MARÍA CANO MARTÍNEZ PAPERS

Translating the website Migration is Beautiful is the highlight of the course “Translation Workshop: English into Spanish.” Since starting our collaboration with the Iowa Women's Archives back in 2011, students have enjoyed a most unique, valuable learning experience by using their translation skills to make the stories of Iowa Latino women heard among the larger Spanish-speaking audience around the world. The María Cano Martínez story was particularly meaningful to us for her tireless efforts to serve and help the Latino community in the health care setting. Today her legacy lives on in the medical interpreters who facilitate communication daily at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

—Pilar Marcé, PhD candidate, Spanish & Portuguese Department



María Cano Martínez, first Spanish-language interpreter at University of Iowa Hospitals

## DIEMAN-BENNETT DANCE THEATRE OF THE HEMISPHERES RECORDS

Edna Dieman and Julia Bennett, who ran the Dieman-Bennett dance studio in Cedar Rapids from 1951-1997, taught my dance teacher, so I think of them as my “dance grandmothers.” I began visiting the Iowa Women’s Archives to do research in the summer of 2013 and have been thrilled to find so many rich and interesting materials: diaries, manuscripts, newspaper articles, photos, recital programs, video footage, and more. These items help the story of Miss Dieman and Miss Bennett come alive for me and for the groups to whom I’ve given presentations.

—Jane Nesmith, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Coe College

Dieman-Bennett Dance Theatre of the Hemispheres



During my first semester at the University of Iowa, an MFA student in dance told me about the Dieman-Bennett Dance Theatre of the Hemispheres collection at the IWA, which she had encountered as part of an assignment given by Professor Linda Kerber in a women’s history class; she was thrilled to find that there was a Cedar Rapids-based dance company devoted to the teaching and performance of global dance. Fifteen years later, when I began doing research for a book on the significance of international dance performance during the postwar period, I began exploring the Dieman-Bennett collection myself. It has provided a wellspring of materials for my book as well as for several undergraduate dance researchers to discover. For the past two years, I have been working with several dance major honors students to examine the Iowa legacy of Dieman and Bennett’s mentor La Meri. My students have thrilled at the opportunity to study these women, even taking the initiative to design and build a website that provides a lens onto the legacy of international dance performance in our region.

—Rebekah Kowal, Associate Professor, Department of Dance

## JOAN LIPSKY PAPERS

Joan Lipsky was the granddaughter of Russian Jewish immigrants who founded Smulekoff’s furniture store in Cedar Rapids in the late 19th century. Active in city commissions, Jewish organizations, and women’s clubs, she served six terms as a Republican representative in the Iowa General Assembly, where she focused on women’s legal, economic, and social equality and was a fierce proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment. A friend of both Louise Noun and Mary Louise Smith, Lipsky supported the IWA from its earliest days. Toward the end of her life, she made one last contribution to the Archives. Worried that the stories of Jewish women would be forgotten unless a concerted effort was made to save them, she made a gift of \$50,000 to help fund a graduate assistantship in the IWA. The resulting Jewish Women in Iowa Project has gathered stories and papers documenting the lives of Jewish women in small towns and cities across Iowa.

—Jeannette Gabriel, Graduate Research Assistant, Jewish Women in Iowa Project

## LENA BELLE BOCK PAPERS

When I was starting research for my MA on women in politics in Iowa in the 1950-60s, I was delighted by the trove of useful primary sources I found at the IWA. One of my best finds was the political scrapbook of Lena Belle Bock, who served in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1961-1965. What struck me most about the scrapbook was its compilation – I saw Bock constructing a narrative about her political career not just in what she chose to keep and collect in the pages of a scrapbook, but in how she decided to arrange it. For example, despite the majority of the scrapbook running chronologically, Bock placed a newspaper article listing her as a candidate at a Republican rally opposite a page describing her as “our state representative” at the same rally the following year. She was making a conscious connection between the two events, as if to say that she made good on her candidacy.

—Danielle Hoskins, PhD candidate, History Department

## IOWA ERA COALITION RECORDS IOWA WOMEN AGAINST THE ERA RECORDS

Celeste Campos-Castillo and I used the Iowa ERA Coalition and Iowa Women Against the ERA collections to examine how social movement activists pitch their issues to a wide audience in the hopes of mobilizing them to action. While social movement theorists tend to assume that activists should present their issues in a way that resonates with their audience (called frame resonance) to enable a higher chance of success, we found contradictory evidence to this longstanding theory. In analyzing the archival material from the IWA, we found that movement activists might consider pitching their issues in a way that creates dissonance in their audience to improve the chances of mobilization (e.g. like voting for the ERA). These ideas were published in the March 2017 issue of the *Social Psychology Quarterly*. We intend to turn our attention next to how issues can be framed in a way that compels certain emotions, and which emotions might be most effective for mobilizing people. For this study, we would like to incorporate some of the cartoons from both pro- and anti-ERA organizations.

—stefshuster, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Appalachian State University



Equal Rights Amendment supporters



## IOWA PORKETTES RECORDS

I opened the first box of the Iowa Porkettes collection expecting mundane meeting minutes and vague newsletters of this auxiliary to the Iowa Pork and Swine Producers Association, but quickly found a rich record of farm women harnessing the power of feminism to claim their space in agribusiness. This material was critical to my research on Iowa farm women’s activism and to this day students know how to find me by the picture of the Iowa Porkettes’ mascot, Lady Loinette, on my office door.

—Jennifer Barker-Devine, Associate Professor of History, Illinois College

Lady Loinette,  
mascot of the Iowa Porkettes



## MOLLY BOLIN PAPERS IOWA CORNETS RECORDS

High school basketball standout Molly Bolin played professional basketball for the Iowa Cornets, one of the original teams in the Women’s Basketball League (established in 1978). Iowa girls basketball heritage figured prominently in the marketing of the Iowa Cornets, as did Iowa’s corn! Bolin’s papers and the records of the Iowa Cornets provide an important historical record of the challenges and opportunities that female athletes experienced in the late 1970s and 1980s.

—*Shelley Lucas, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, Boise State University*

Molly Bolin,  
Iowa Cornet

## FLORENCE VALLEJO TERRONEZ PAPERS

I always brought my Latinx history classes to the Iowa Women’s Archives. The Archives brings history to life and gives the Latinx community of Iowa a voice that has for so long been absent. Through letters and other documents, students get a first-hand view of how Latinx members of the Iowa community approached complex issues—immigration, labor rights, and war. Using the Mujeres Latinas collections in conjunction with the award-winning website Migration is Beautiful, students find sources that inspire them immediately and get them excited about local Latinx history. My hope is that some students will expand on their class assignment, writing books and articles that change the way we think about Latinx History in the Midwest and in the US.

—*James Mestaz, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, 2015-2017*

Vallejo sisters in their backyard,  
Des Moines, 1945



Logo for Migration is Beautiful website.  
Image by artist Favianna Rodriguez.  
[migration.lib.uiowa.edu](http://migration.lib.uiowa.edu)



## LOUISE NOUN PAPERS

I've dipped into the Louise Noun papers often over the past 25 years, but they still yield surprises. Tucked into a folder from 1972 are several letters to and from Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She had just founded the American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project to end legal discrimination against women, and Noun—finishing up a term on the ACLU board—had some ideas. It's striking how closely Noun's activism and her scholarship were entwined. A leader in the Iowa Civil Liberties Union in the 1960s, she joined the National Organization for Women in 1971. All the while she kept researching and writing the history of Iowa women, from forgotten artists to Works Progress Administration domestic workers. Noun's scrapbooks are filled with newspaper clippings about her activism on behalf of civil rights and feminism. Whether protesting the exclusion of Jews from the Wakonda Club in Des Moines or chastising a Des Moines Register editor about sexist language, Louise Noun was a persistent voice for equality.

—Kären Mason, *Curator, Iowa Women's Archives*



Louise Noun being honored at the 5th anniversary of the Young Women's Resource Center, Des Moines, Iowa, 1983

Mary Louise Smith presiding at Republican National Convention, Kansas City, August 1976



## MARY LOUISE SMITH PAPERS

The Mary Louise Smith papers and the Iowa Women's Archives changed my life! In the summer of 1992, while a graduate student in History at the University of Iowa, I took a job working at the Archives before it even opened. I spent the next year and a half processing collections in what at the time were nearly empty stacks. By far the largest collection I worked on was the Mary Louise Smith papers, rich in documentation of her many years as a Republican Party official and an active participant in the 1970s women's movement. I became particularly fascinated by her self-identification as a Republican feminist. So fascinated, in fact, that I switched my PhD research focus from the 19th to the 20th century and wrote a dissertation on women in the Republican Party. Although I visited a number of other archives for my research, I never would have landed on the topic at all without that formative experience with Smith's papers.

—Catherine Rymph, *Associate Professor of History, University of Missouri*

# CREDITS

## 25 COLLECTIONS FOR 25 YEARS: SELECTIONS FROM THE IOWA WOMEN'S ARCHIVES

*25 COLLECTIONS FOR 25 YEARS: SELECTIONS FROM THE IOWA WOMEN'S ARCHIVES is an exhibition in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Iowa Women's Archives in the University of Iowa Libraries.*

[WWW.LIB.UIOWA.EDU/IWA/25-YEARS](http://WWW.LIB.UIOWA.EDU/IWA/25-YEARS)

### EXHIBITION CURATION

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Janet Weaver, Assistant Curator, Iowa Women's Archives, UI Libraries

Heather Cooper, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, UI Department of History

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Friends of the UI Libraries

*Special thanks to all of the faculty, students, staff, and other researchers who provided comments on their use of collections in the Iowa Women's Archives.*



*Every woman has a story*

**IOWA** WOMEN'S  
ARCHIVES

*Every girl has a voice*

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
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