



**Archives Center & Research Library
Finding Aid**

**Needlework Guild of America, Haddonfield branch, records, 1893-1995 (bulk 1893-1976)
Collection #1996-013**

ABSTRACT:

The Haddonfield Branch of the Needlework Guild of America, later renamed NGA, created, collected and distributed garments to individuals in need and agencies involved in charitable work, including Children's Home Society of New Jersey, Cooper Hospital, Haddonfield Visiting Nurse Association, and others. This collection documents the history of the Haddonfield chapter from its local beginnings in 1893 until it disbanded in 1995. Materials include secretary's binders, branch reports, garment reports, convention pamphlets, national newsletters, and other documents and ephemera.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Collection #: 1996-013

Collection title: Needlework Guild of America, Haddonfield branch, records

Creator: Needlework Guild of America, Haddonfield branch

Type of collection: corp

Date of materials - earliest: 1893

Date of materials - latest: 1995

Bulk dates: 1893-1976

Number of boxes: 9 standard archival boxes

Extent: 3.6 linear feet

Provenance: Gift of Janice Stedman, 1996

Any restrictions on access? No restrictions

Language(s): English

Related collections: n/a

Other internal notes: n/a

Finding aid author: Rachel Seitz and Dana Dorman

Date finding aid created: 5/9/17

SUBJECTS / ACCESS POINTS:

Geographic names

Haddonfield (N.J.).

Camden (N.J.).

Source?

lsh

lsh

Subjects

Needlework.

Women -- Societies and clubs.

Source?

lsh

lsh

Names

Needlework Guild of America.

Needlework Guild of America. Haddonfield Branch.

Source?

lsh

local

BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The Haddonfield Branch of the Needlework Guild of America, later NGA, was founded in 1893. Its mission was “collecting new garments and distributing them to hospitals, homes and other charities.” The organization was nonsectarian and started small, but quickly grew to producing more than 2,700 garments each year at its zenith in the early to mid twentieth century.

Each member of the branch was responsible for knitting, sewing and creating as many garments as possible, which, paired with contributions from local groups and institutions, were then distributed to those in need and to local agencies such as the Children’s Home Society of New Jersey, Haddonfield Visiting Nurse Association, and Cooper Hospital.

Due to declining membership and increasing fees to be part of the national NGA, the Haddonfield Branch disbanded in 1995.

Bibliography for bio/hist background note:

Historical Society of Haddonfield: Needlework Guild of America Haddonfield Branch records, 1893-1995, collection #1996-013.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collection documents the growth, programming, administration and operation of the Haddonfield branch of the Needlework Guild of America. The records include meeting minutes, garment reports, secretary binders, as well as some correspondence and local news clippings.

Annual branch reports document the group officers, a short secretary's report, the treasurer's report of yearly expenses, locations and organizations of distributed garments, and number of garments generated by each member.

The meeting minutes were first kept in the "secretary's book," and later moved to binders to include other documents, correspondence, and generated materials. Expenditures and early branch reports were handwritten by the secretary and treasurer in these journals, and later were printed as pamphlets and collected in the secretary's binder. The bulk of the secretary's binders contain annual branch reports, secretary minutes, reports of events and programs (as well as some photographs), correspondence between the Haddonfield branch and national organization, as well as internal organizational forms for yearly local garment production and distribution.

Miscellaneous materials include promotional items, including a small banner, flyers, posters, and bumper stickers, garment labels, prayer cards, convention delegate pins and lanyards, a garment bag, a small photo album, knitting and craft patters, letters of appreciation and thanks from individuals and other organizations, promotional pamphlets, bylaws and governing material, and the 1994 "Nuts & Bolts of NGA" reference binder.

National organization materials include printed annual national convention reports, national biennial reports, national branch reports (which include yearly officers, garments received by members and garment distributions from every NGA chapter and branch), and the Needlework Guild of America (later NGA) Newsletter, the official magazine of the NGA branches.

CONTAINER LIST / INVENTORY:

Box 1: Meeting minutes (1893-1947), secretary's binder (1912-1982)

Box 2: Secretary's binder (1959-1995)

Box 3: Garment reports (1968-1976)

Box 4: Garment and treasury reports (1977-1995)

Box 5: NGA News (1962-1978)

Box 6: NGA News (1978-1995), biennial reports (1933-1936, 1939-1943)

Box 7: Committee and annual meeting reports (1934-1969)

Box 8: Annual meeting reports (1970-1975), 50th anniversary program book (1935), convention programs (1961-1991), branch reports (1958-1985)

Box 9: Miscellaneous (bylaws and governing materials, knitting and craft patterns, letters of appreciation and thanks, news clippings, newsletters from other organizations, “Nuts & Bolts of NGA” reference binder, list of officer duties and descriptions, promotional pamphlets and materials.)

Box 10: Ephemera and other objects