

ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH

The Adrienne Club of Lafayette began as the Lafayette College Women's Club on December 17, 1941, ten days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Ruth Durand Lewis, wife of college president William Mather Lewis, called a meeting of faculty wives, library staff and college secretaries in Brainerd Hall (now Hogg Hall), to organize a women's group for civil defense. They met for social as well as Red Cross activities, changing their name on February 10, 1942, to the Adrienne Club, named after the wife of the Marquis de Lafayette.

In 1942 the draft age in the United States was lowered to eighteen, and Lafayette (an exclusively men's college at the time) worked to get military training programs on campus to make use of its facilities while regular enrollment was low. By March 1943 enlisted men were receiving housing and training at Lafayette College. They were members of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP); the Engineering, Science, and Management War Training Program; and U.S. Army Air Corps. In addition, Lafayette was one of three college sites chosen for pre-West Point training (the other two were Amherst and Cornell).

During the course of World War II a total of 4,185 military men were stationed at Lafayette, up to one thousand at a time. Among the more notable of these were Henry Kissinger and Frank Church. The Adrienne Club opened a canteen and a recreation center in March 1943, organizing social activities for the men as well as offering services such as shopping and sewing. Canteen receipts totaled over \$46,000 between 1943 and 1945, and the \$5000 net profit was invested after the war in a scholarship fund. This provided an annual scholarship to a local high school student attending Lafayette College, from 1948-49, when the amount was \$200, up to \$2450 in 1987-88, the last year of the Club. At this time \$1010 was turned over to the college scholarship fund.

In addition to its work with Lafayette servicemen, the Adrienne Club sold government War Bonds in downtown Easton, and worked for other war-related causes. After the war, in 1946, the Adrienne Club helped form the Emilie Club for wives of Lafayette students, many of whom were veterans. Also in 1946, members helped organize the National Women's Auxiliary of Lafayette College. In 1948 Adrienne collected linens for British college students in a drive sponsored by the English-Speaking Union.

After the war the focus of the Adrienne Club changed, with an increased emphasis on social and cultural activities over its original service mission, although many of the women remained involved in this area as well. Lectures, discussions, teas, suppers and dances formed the bulk of postwar programming.

Although the Adrienne Club planned a full calendar of events through its last year, 1987-88 began without a president-elect. President Liza Mattison sent a letter to all members in November 1987 stating that the club would disband at the end of the academic year unless a president could be found. This announcement was repeated at the meeting of February 9, 1988. There was not a formal meeting in March because attendance was so low; no regular meeting minutes appear after this date.

Executive Board minutes for 1987-88 show membership increasing (51 in September, 63 in October, 66 in December), yet there was concern about the club's leadership problem. The last Board meeting of the Adrienne Club was April 26, 1988.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Adrienne Club Records (1941-1988) contain minutes, program announcements, committee reports, correspondence, financial records and scrapbooks pertaining to the club's activities at Lafayette College. The records (6 boxes -- 2 linear feet) are arranged alphabetically according to subject.

Of particular interest are records of the club's founding and activities during World War II, when women of the Adrienne Club ran a canteen and recreation center for U.S. military men housed and trained on the Lafayette campus. Pamphlets entitled "Lafayette for the Nation's Service" and "Service Men's Recreation Center of Lafayette College" give insight into this era. Committee records of the Adrienne War Fund Canteen

and Recreation Center can be found in Committee Reports (Box 1:6-7); financial records are located in War Fund Canteen files (Box 5:1-10).

The Adrienne Club did not confine itself to the Lafayette College campus. It had great success selling government war bonds in Easton. In the large scrapbook is a certificate showing that in 1945 the \$17,550 raised by the club purchased nine field ambulances. Also in this scrapbook is a typed and translated letter dated July 25, 1945, from a M. Barrette in Bieville-sur-Orne in France, thanking members for \$500 sent by the Adrienne Club to that village.

In 1946 members of the Adrienne Club helped form a group for wives of veterans attending Lafayette. The Emilie Club was named after the daughter-in-law of the Marquis de Lafayette. A few items from the Emilie Club are in the collection, including a newspaper item from February 1946 on the club's founding, in the large scrapbook.

At the fortieth anniversary of the Adrienne Club in 1982, Albert W. Gendebien, college historian and husband of a club member, delivered a talk on the club's history. Two copies of this talk are included in these records, one of which includes his handwritten notes on the talk as it was actually delivered. "R.S.T." (probably Rachel Thomas, Adrienne Club president 1953-54), also wrote a short history.

Several items are mentioned in these records which are not part of the collection, such as the Life Member pin (purchased from Bixler's Jeweler's for \$7.50) and the Adrienne serving committee apron, which members sewed of maroon percale with "Adrienne" embroidered in white. Club member Mabel Bishop Gilmer wrote a play, Pioneers, performed in Brainerd Hall on February 10, 1943. This event is described in newspaper articles in the small scrapbook, which also contains a copy of the program; the play was not found. In 1987 the Lafayette Community Cookbook was compiled by the Adrienne Club.

A letter from Ruth Durand Lewis to the Board of Trustees dated October 21, 1944, refers to a plaque in front of Hogg Hall presented by the Aviation Cadets to the Adrienne Club. Albert Gendebien, in his 1982 speech, mentions discovering this plaque in storage in the basement of Van Wickle Hall.

Gwendolyn Reeder Love began sketching charcoal portraits of servicemen in July 1943. According to a newspaper article dated November 3, 1945, in the large scrapbook, these were presented to the college as part of a permanent exhibit in Brainerd Hall. The sketches were apparently photographed, according to the Recreation Center and Canteen Report, although neither the sketches nor the photographs are part of these records.

Silver is a frequent topic of discussion in these records. The club bought a silver tea service in June 1947 and May 1948. Soldiers stationed at Lafayette had given the club \$400 in 1944, in appreciation of the Adrienne Club's work in the Canteen and Recreation Center. To this the club added a little over \$100, proceeds from the 1947 operetta, The Faculty Flame, and purchased the silver. The Silver Committee took an annual inventory of the set, which was insured, and several times polled members about which campus groups should be allowed to borrow the silver. This is addressed in the Bylaws at the end of the Constitution. In 1985 the silver was appraised by Bixler's Jewelers at \$2,529. In 1988, when the Adrienne Club disbanded, the silver service became the property of Lafayette College.

The minutes of Executive Board and regular club meetings are comprehensive and complete. The Constitution and Bylaws, in several revisions, outline the organization of the club. For most years there are complete membership lists.

NOTE ON PROVENANCE

A letter from Ruth S. Cottrell, Adrienne Club president, to Clyde L. Haselden, Lafayette librarian, dated April 25, 1966, asks that the club records be "reinstated" in the Skillman Library of Lafayette College. They had been removed from the library in 1962; no record of their original deposit at the library has been found.

**ADRIENNE CLUB
RECORDS, 1941-1988**

**SKILLMAN LIBRARY
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

A letter of the same date, "To whom it may concern," indicates that the club's Executive Board voted unanimously to have these records reinstated in the library's Lafayette Collection. This letter is also signed by Ruth Cottrell, with a list of the 1965-66 Executive Board appended.

Clyde Haselden's letter of April 26, 1966, to Mrs. Cottrell, confirms the library's agreement to shelve Adrienne Club materials in Special Collections.

Records relating to the Recreation Center and Canteen were retrieved from the attic of Van Wickle Hall in 1989. In May of 1995 half a cubic foot of material was retrieved from Donna Krivoski containing membership lists and correspondence from the 1980's.

INVENTORY

Box 1: Committees -- Financial Records

	Folders
Committees -- General Committee of the Adrienne Recreation Center--Minutes: 1943 (Mar.)-1944 (Apr.)	1
Committees -- Hospitality --Reports:1947-48 to 1987-88	2
Committees -- Membership -- Reports:1950-51 to 1961-62	3
Committees -- Miscellaneous -- Reports: 1946-47 to 1961-62	4
Committees -- Program -- Reports: 1947-48 to 1982-83	5
Committees -- Recreation Center and Canteen Report: 1943 (Feb.)-1944 (May)	6
Committees -- Recreation Center and Canteen -- Miscellaneous Committee Reports: 1943-44	7
Committees -- Silver -- Reports, Inventories, Insurance: 1947-48 to 1987-88	8
Committees -- Social Activities -- Reports: 1947-48 to 1986-87	9
Constitution and Bylaws: 1942, 1943, 1949, 1953, 1961, 1967, 1972, 1982, n.d.	10
Correspondence -- General: 1942-1986	11
Correspondence -- English-Speaking Union: 1948	12
Correspondence -- Skillman Library -- Regarding club records: 1966	13
Correspondence -- Re club dissolving: 1988	14
Corresponding Secretary -- Records: 1968-69 to 1987-88	14a
Emilie Club	15
Financial Records -- Finance Committee -- Reports: 1950-51 to 1986-87	16
Financial Records -- Treasurer -- Reports: 1949-50 to 1986-87	17
Financial Records -- Treasurer's Books: 1942-43 to 1949-50	18-19

Box 2: Financial Records -- Memorial Contributions

Financial Records (Treasurer's Books: 1950-51 to 1987-88)	1-5
History of the Club	6
Lafayette Coat of Arms Pin -- Research	7
Life Membership	8
Meeting Announcement Postcards: 1942 (Feb.)- 1958 (May)	9-10
Membership Lists -- Adrienne Board: 1941-42 to 1985-86	11
Membership Lists -- General Membership: 1941-42 to 1984-85, n.d.	12
Memorial Contributions	13

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Box 3: Minutes: 1941-1988

Minutes -- Executive Board: 1941 (Dec.) -1988 (Apr.)	1-7
Minutes -- Regular Club Meetings: 1941 (Dec.) -1988 (Mar.)	8-14

Box 4: Miscellaneous -- Scholarship Fund

Miscellaneous	1
Newspaper Clippings	2
Notecards and envelopes (Blank)	3
Pamphlets	4
President's Handbook	5
Programs and Activities: 1941-42 to 1987-88	6-18
Scholarship Fund	19-20

Box 5: War Fund Canteen -- Yearbook

War Fund Canteen	1-10
Yearbook -- Notes on compiling	11

Box 6: Scrapbooks and Gavel

Contents

Small Adrienne Club Scrapbook, 1942 (Feb.)-1945 (May)
Large Adrienne Club Scrapbook, 1943-1959 (May)
Gavel