



BHC-MSS 0208

Guide to the Records of the Connecticut Froebel Normal School Alumnae
Association
by Meg Rinn
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Connecticut Froebel Normal School Alumnae

Title: Records of the Connecticut Froebel Normal School Alumnae Association

Dates: 1905-1981

Quantity: 3 boxes

Abstract. The Records of the Connecticut Froebel Normal School Alumnae were created by the graduates of the school, which was created in order to instruct women and guide them in being kindergarten and early childhood educators. The collection contains minutes and financial information that charts much of the group's history, along with a subject file that shows their activities and interests.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

The Records of the Connecticut Froebel Normal School Alumnae were created by the graduates of the school, which was created in order to instruct women and guide them in being kindergarten and early childhood educators. It was based off of the early childhood theories of and named for Frederick Froebel, a pioneer in early childhood education and creator of the western notion of kindergarten.

The school itself began as a private kindergarten founded by Mary Mills in 1898 in Bridgeport. Mills herself was trained at the Froebel Normal Institute in New York. Her school in Bridgeport was located in St. George's Chapel, moving to 179 West Avenue in 1900. The building was one of the first schools in Bridgeport with steam heat and gas lighting.

Graduates learned on the job. Although they were considered graduates of the New York Froebel Normal School as an affiliate until the Bridgeport based school was able to gain a separate corporate identity. Graduates cycled out of the program until 1930, when low enrollment caused the school to shutter.

Alumnae were active in keeping in touch with each other and supporting Connecticut education, as seen by donations in their records and scholarships they helped administer at the University of Bridgeport. The alumnae association eventually closed down in 1981 due to dwindling membership – many graduates had passed on.

Scope and Content note:

Material contains minutes and financial information that follows the group for much of its existence. The subject files include a history of the group, a yearbook, and some subject files.

Arrangement Note:

Series I, executive functions, contains the constitution as well as minutes and financial information from executive positions. Series II contains financial information, and series III contains subject files that reflect the activities and interests of the group.

Administrative information:**Provenance:****Preferred Citation:**

Records of the Connecticut Froebel Normal School Alumnae Association (BHC-MSS 0208), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings*Personal names*

Mills, Mary

Corporate names

Connecticut Froebel Normal School Alumnae Association

Connecticut Froebel Normal School

Subject tracings

Education

Early childhood education

Kindergartens

Private schools

Detailed box/folder listing**Box 1**

Series I, Executive functions

1. Constitutions, undated
2. Secretary book, minutes, 1948-1981
3. Treasurer's book, 1948-1981

Series II, Finances

4. Tax records, 1967
5. Checkbook, 1961-1975
6. Receipts, 1953-1981

Box 2

1. Bank statements, 1970-1981

Series III, Subject files

2. Association for childhood education, 1952-1954
3. Cookbook, 5 best breads, 1951

4. Gifts to University of Bridgeport, Hall Neighborhood House, others, 1954-1980
5. History of the Connecticut Froebel Normal School, 1946
6. Membership lists, 1965
7. Newsletter, 1949-1981
8. Scholarship at University of Bridgeport, 1950-1981
9. Scrapbook, 1905-1906, 1940-1980
10. Yearbook, 1928

Box 3

Membership index cards