THURSDAY NIGHT WHIST CLUB
RECORDS ADDITION, 2015-2018

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	2015-2018, with additions expected
PROVENANCE:	Andrew S. Bowman
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Thursday Night Whist Club Records, M1207
ACCESSION NUMBERS:	2017.0077; 2018.0082; 2019.0174
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Thursday Night Whist Club (TNWC) began as a social organization. Oral history maintains that the club started in 1927. Its first ledger book recording the biweekly card games date from April 3, 1930. The club began at a time when Indianapolis African American men were beginning to identify more group leisure options. The first recorded meeting was hosted by Dr. E. Roberts at the Howard Hotel. The other attendees were Dr. _____ Bate, Dr. Charleston Cox, Bowling Gordon, _____ Grant, Sam Grizzle, Robert Marbury, Dr. Sirdastian Meriwether, Fred Smith, M. L. Stevenson, Morris Taylor, and Wallace Waugh.

The club has maintained a membership roster of twelve. Members meet biweekly (with the exception of the summer months) to play the card game, whist. (In its simplest description, whist has been portrayed as an early form of bridge without bidding.) The game, which the TNWC usually plays in eight rounds, is preceded by dinner and lively discussion about a variety of topics. In addition to the twelve members, the club maintains a roster of substitutes that is called upon when a member is unable to attend.

Over the years the club has met at various venues including the Howard Hotel, Coffee Pot, Ocean Café, and the Monte Grill. Members have traditionally met at each other homes where their wives prepared large meals. Earlier in the club's history members mostly lived on the near north and near northwest side of Indianapolis. Reflecting the loosening of segregated real estate patterns and practices within the city, member residences tend to have been located further north as time has progressed. For the past few years, games have been held at a north side restaurant. Many of the members have been in the club for decades.

In 1983, the club launched a traveling trophy to be engraved and retained by the annual winner. (This is the person who has scored the most points at the end of the calendar year.) The "Armstrong Trophy" was named in honor of Irven Armstrong, a former 48-year member and president.

The current president is Andrew Bowman and Guy Miller, III serves as secretary/treasurer. Oscar O. Grundy maintains the club's score keeping ledgers, a role that he has had for over fifty years.

Sources:

Copied from Thursday Night Whist Club Records (M1207) Collection Guide by Wilma L. Moore.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This addition consists of biweekly (meaning every two weeks) reports that provide member scores for whist games as well as year-to-date score, average score, and place rankings. Each card adds to the results of previous meetings for that year until the card is filled at the end of the calendar year. The sophisticated cards reflect the well-established nature of the club. They include a member list, a hosting schedule for upcoming meetings, names and telephone numbers for substitutes, and trophy winners for every year since 1983.

The 2016 folder also includes a copy of a photograph of club president Andrew S. Bowman and his granddaughter that was featured in AARP Magazine, Aug./Sept. 2016. They stand in a military cemetery, Bowman holding a US flag and dressed in a Union Civil War reenactment uniform.

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