

Northwestern College, Iowa

NWCommons

[Finding Aids](#)

[Archives – Finding Aids](#)

2021

American Legion Women’s Auxiliary, John C. Pressman Post

Shateen Lichter

Douglas Firth Anderson

Northwestern College - Orange City, firth@nwcsiowa.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nwcommons.nwcsiowa.edu/findingaids>

Recommended Citation

Lichter, Shateen and Anderson, Douglas Firth, "American Legion Women’s Auxiliary, John C. Pressman Post" (2021). *Finding Aids*. 19.

<https://nwcommons.nwcsiowa.edu/findingaids/19>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives – Finding Aids at NWCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of NWCommons. For more information, please contact ggrond@nwcsiowa.edu.

Finding Aid

American Legion Women's Auxiliary, John C. Pressman Post, Orange City, IA

1921-2021

RA 1.4

* * * * *

- Introduction
- Historical Notes
- Related Materials
- Arrangement

© 2021 Northwestern College Archives

* * * * *

Introduction

The American Legion Women's Auxiliary, John C. Pressman Post, Orange City, IA collection provides a glimpse into the pride and work of its members from 1921-2021. Records of the collection include booklets, newspaper articles, constitutions, booklets explaining bylaws, annual reports, awards, several personalized thank-you cards, applications, letters, and financial records/statements. Additionally, ledgers and secretary notes are included. Collectively, these records showcase the important work of the Legion Auxiliary, including its fundraising efforts for hospital equipment, children in need, and veterans.

Size: 26 cm

Provenance: Creators of these records include numerous members and officers of the Orange City, IA Legion Auxiliary chapter. Items from the State level are also included. These records were donated by Bonnie Meier in March of 2021.

Restrictions: Conditional. Researchers must agree to respect the privacy of personal information in any use of the collection material.

Copying: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes.

Permission to Publish and Citations: Written permission to publish material in these archives must be requested of the Director of the Library. Citations should include the following information and acknowledgments:

Item author (if applicable), date (if known); American Legion Women's Auxiliary, John C. Pressman Post, Orange City, IA; RA 1.4; Northwestern College Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Notes: The collection's arrangement and this finding aid were completed in July 2021 by Shateen Lichter, with revisions by Douglas Firth Anderson.

* * * * *

Historical Notes

The American Legion nationally was organized in 1919, initially as a World War I veterans' organization; the Pressman Post of Orange City was organized the same year. The American Legion Women's Auxiliary, Pressman Post, was founded in 1921-1922, only months after the first Department of Iowa convention of the Legion's Women's Auxiliary was held in Sioux City in May, 1921. Fundraising efforts included the sale of poppies, magazine subscriptions, even white elephant and knives sales. Funds were primarily used to provide hospital equipment (beds, trapeze bars, walkers) and parts for Iron Lungs (Spiralocks).

Many early members took their duties seriously and stressed the importance of serving their country in this manner. Membership and participation were strongly encouraged and can be felt through the letters of this collection.

* * * * *

Related Materials

See other collections from the Orange City, IA area, including Legion (RA 1.1 Box 4). Other collections about women include the Federated Women's Club (RA 1.1 Box 4), Women's Auxiliary (NCRG 28), and Women in the Church (RCA10).

On the American Legion, see the following books in the DeWitt Library Collection:

- Rumer, Thomas A. [*The American Legion: An Official History, 1919-1989*](#). New York: M. Evans, 1990.
- Swisher, Jacob Armstrong. [*The American Legion in Iowa, 1919-1929*](#). Iowa City, Ia: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1929.

On the American Legion Auxiliary, see organization websites:

- [My Auxiliary](#).
- American Legion Auxiliary, [Department of Iowa](#).

* * * * *

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by year and sorted into two boxes. Box 1 includes materials from 1922-2021. Box 2 includes one folder of items with no date in addition to three ledgers and one secretary book. The detailed arrangement is as follows:

AMERICAN LEGION WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, ORANGE CITY, IA, 1921-2021			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	1a	Correspondence about collection	2021
	1	Booklets, newspaper articles, letters, constitutions, applications, bulletins, membership, thank-you cards	1921-1927
	2	Membership, constitutions\by-laws, bulletins, letters, notes, miscellaneous	1928-1929
	3	Membership, applications, awards, annual reports	1930-1939
	4	Membership, awards, applications, receipts, booklets, letters, magazine subscription financial records, misc.	1940-1949
	5	Letters, financial statements, Girls State program, bulletins, newspaper articles, misc.	1950-1959
	6	Letters, receipts	1950-1999
	7	Treasurer report, booklets, letters	2000-2020

AMERICAN LEGION WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, ORANGE CITY, IA, 1921-2021			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
2	1	Letters, posters, newspaper articles, misc.	No Date
	Ledger (Green)		1947-1955
	Ledger (Green)		1955-1966
	Ledger (Black)		1952-1966
	Secretary Book (Black)		1949-1964