



Loomis Communities Records

1909-2015 (*Bulk:*1980-2000)

11 boxes (15.75 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 685

Collection overview

In 1902, a group of residents of Holyoke, Mass., secured a charter for the Holyoke Home for Aged People, wishing to do “something of permanent good for their city” and provide a “blessing to the homeless.” Opened in March 1911 on two acres of land donated by William Loomis, the Holyoke Home provided long-term care of the elderly, and grew slowly for its first half century. After changing its name to Loomis House in 1969, in honor of the benefactor, Loomis began slowly to expand, moving to its present location in 1981 upon construction of the first continuing care retirement community in the Commonwealth. In 1988, the Board acquired a 27-acre campus in South Hadley on which it established Loomis Village; in 1999, it became affiliated with the Applewood community in Amherst; and in 2009, it acquired Reeds Landing in Springfield.

The Loomis Communities Records offer more than a century perspective on elder care and the growth of retirement communities in western Massachusetts. The collection includes a nearly complete run of the minutes of the Board of Directors from 1902 to the present, an assortment administrative and financial records, and some documentation of the experience of the communities’ residents, with the bulk of materials dating from the 1980s to the present. An extensive series of oral histories with residents of Loomis Village was conducted in 2010.

See similar SCUA collections:

[Massachusetts \(West\)](#)[Oral history](#)[Women](#)

Background on Loomis Communities

In 1883, a picnicking group of five female friends in Holyoke, MA slowly blossomed into an outing and social group of over fifty women. Wishing to do “something of permanent good for their city” and provide a “blessing to the homeless,” the so called Rain or Shine Club came up with the idea of gathering support and money for an institution to house and care for the old and infirm and to promote benevolent work in the community. Fifty-five women eventually signed the petition of incorporation for the Holyoke Home for Aged People, and the first meeting of the corporation was held October 6, 1902. Funding for the institution and an endowment was raised from throughout the community, including funds from a fair run by the group, and donations from the Holyoke Water Power Company, The Lyman Mills, William and Joseph Skinner, Frank Beebe, Mrs. Cyrus L. Frink, Charles E. Crevier, and J. P. Morgan.

The Holyoke Home, designed by the Chicopee architect James Clough for the purpose of housing the elderly, opened in March 1911 on two acres of land donated by philanthropist and widower William Stiles Loomis, whose wife had been in the Rain or Shine Club and had wishes of aiding the homeless and aged population of Holyoke. The Home provided long-term care of the elderly, famously for both women and men, and grew slowly for its first half century.

After changing its name to Loomis House in 1969, in honor of the benefactor, Loomis began slowly to expand, moving to its present location in 1981 upon construction of the first continuing care retirement community in the Commonwealth. In 1988, the Board acquired a 27-acre campus in South Hadley on which it established Loomis Village; in 1999, it became affiliated with the Applewood community in Amherst; and in 2009, it acquired Reeds Landing in Springfield. With over a century of changes and innovative work in residential and health care services, Loomis Communities continues to impact the nursing home industry today with its network of independent- and assisted-living apartments, units, and focus on creating a person-centered long-term care community.

Scope of collection

The Loomis Communities Records offer more than a century perspective on elder care and the growth of retirement communities in western Massachusetts. The collection includes a nearly complete run of the minutes of the Board of Directors from 1909 to the present, an assortment administrative and financial records, and some documentation of the experience of the communities' residents, with the bulk of materials dating from the 1980s to the present. An extensive series of oral histories with residents of Loomis Village was conducted in 2010.

The records are organized into five series:

- **Series 1: Subject Files**
- **Series 2: Administrative**
- **Series 3: Publications**
- **Series 4: Visual Materials**
- **Series 5: Oral Histories**

Series descriptions

Series 1: Subject Files

1911-2010
(*bulk*1980-
2000)

4.75 boxes
(6.75 linear
feet)

This series includes correspondence, reports, clippings, notes, lists, blueprints, advertisements and other documentation of various activities and groups associated with Loomis Communities. It is organized thematically, and includes materials related to admissions, care, services, staffing, development, finances, planning, marketing, residents, and other elder care facilities associated with Loomis. Subject are arranged alphabetically, although several subjects, such as development and marketing, are arranged chronologically to assist understanding of the changes of the Loomis buildings, residencies, and outreach strategies over time.

Series 2: Administrative

**1909-2014
(*bulk*1980-
2000)**

**5 boxes (7.5
linear feet)**

This series documents the administrative history of Loomis Communities, all the way back to its time as Holyoke Home for Aged People. There is a nearly complete run of the minutes and roll call of the Board of Directors from 1909 to the early 2000s, annual reports from the 1980s through 2014, and documentation from the numerous administrative and resident committees and groups in charge of administration, planning, and life at Loomis.

Series 3: Publications

1985-2015

**.25 boxes (.5
linear feet)**

This series includes publications and newsletters put out by residents and administration at Loomis Communities over the years.

Series 4: Visual Materials

**1935-2005
(*bulk*1980-
1999)**

**1 box (1
linear foot)**

This series consists of photographs and slides of Loomis Communities residents, facilities, and events, particularly on holidays and other special occasions.

Series 5: Oral Histories

2010

This series includes 32 oral history interviews conducted with residents and administrators from Loomis Communities in 2010.

Inventory

Series 1: Subject Files

**1911-2010
(*bulk*1980-
2000)**

**4.75 boxes
(6.75 linear
feet)**

1902 Founders Society	2005	Box 1: 1
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Admissions	ca.1976-1980	Box 1: 4
Assisted living program	1986-1987	Box 1: 5
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Bequests	1922-1995	Box 1: 8-15
Cemetery deeds	1890-1940	Box 1: 16
Chamber of Commerce	1985-1987	Box 1: 17
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Chapel Hill - Determination of Need	1989	Box 1: 19
Chapel Hill - Purchase and sale	1991	Box 1: 20
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Clippings - Mason Wright	1998-1999	Box 1: 23
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New Loomis House	1979-1980	Box 1: 44
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South Hadley - Town meeting	1988	Box 2: 7-8
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South Hadley - Development Impact Statement	1989	Box 2: 10
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Furnishings- equipment	1992	Box 3: 3
Furnishings - reports	ca.1980	Box 3: 4
Furnishings - tables	1981-1985	Box 3: 5
History	1973-2001	Box 3: 6
History - Holyoke Home for Aged People	1908-1988	Box 3: 7-8
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Home and community based services	1996	Box 3: 11
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Mason Wright

Contents: The current Mason Wright Senior Living was originally the Springfield Home for Aged Men and then Springfield Home for the Elderly, and then Mason Wright Retirement Community and Foundation.

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Wright		

Contents: The current Wright Home for Women was originally the Easthampton Home for Aged Women and then Wright Charities and Wright Homestead.

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Series 2: Administrative

**1909-2014
(bulk1980-
2000)** **5 boxes (7.5
linear feet)**

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Series 5: Oral Histories	2010
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› Abbey, Mary: Mary Abbey: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 16
› Bergen, Bob and Betsey: Bob and Betsy Bergen: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 08
› Brown, Ken and Shirley: Ken and Shirley Brown: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 08
› Burke, Janet: Janet Burke: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 18
› Carter, Priscilla: Priscilla Carter: oral history with Molly Graham and Waldo Heinrichs	2010 Jul 14
› Chase, Dorothy and Lisa Seyffer: Dorothy Chase and Lisa Seyffer: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 10
› Constant, Carol: Carol Constant: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 10
› Curtis, Barbara: Barbara Curtis: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 30
› Elleman, Barbara: Barbara Elleman: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 09
› Elleman, Don: Don Elleman: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 14
› Fleming, Jim: Jim Fleming: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 09
› Goodwin, Sonja: Sonja Goodwin: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 21
› Hasegawa, Marii: Marii Hasegawa: oral history with Waldo H. Heinrichs and Molly Graham	2010 Jun 14
› Hasegawa, Marii: Marii Hasegawa: oral history with Waldo H. Heinrichs and Molly Graham	2010 Jun 18
› Hasegawa, Marii: Marii Hasegawa: oral history with Waldo H. Heinrichs and Molly Graham	2010 Jun 21
› Hasegawa, Marii: Marii Hasegawa: oral history with Waldo H. Heinrichs and Molly Graham	2010 Jul 01
› Heinrichs, Audrey: Audrey Heinrichs: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 23
› Katz, Carol: Carol Katz: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 18
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› Mantoni, Marge: Marge Mantoni: oral history with Carol Constant	2010 Jun 23
› McClung, Gale: Gale McClung: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 22
› McLain, Patricia: Patricia McLain: oral history with Joan C. Steiger	2010 Jun 25
› Mullins, Alice: Alice Mullins: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Mar 16
› O'Reilly, Patricia Rearden: Patricia Rearden O'Reilly: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 14
› Pins, Paul and Helen: Paul and Helen Pins: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 22
› Read, Richard: Richard Read: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 23
› Reed, Jewel: Jewel Reed: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 07
› Stanley, Art and Barbara: Art Stanley and Barbara Stanley: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jul 15

▶ Steiger, Joan C.: Joan C. Steiger: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 09
▶ Stewart, Harding: Harding Stewart: oral history with Carol Constant	ca.2010 Jun
▶ Webb, Al: Al Webb: oral history with Molly Graham	2010 Jun 14

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Loomis Communities, 2010, 2015.

Digitized content

Selected material from the Loomis Communities Records has been digitized and is available online through **Credo**.

Processing Information

Processed by Joanna Nevins, 2016 and Blake Spitz, 2017.

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

- Holyoke (Mass.)--History.
- Loomis Village Retirement Community.
- Older people--Care--Massachusetts
- Retirees--Massachusetts
- Retirement communities--Massachusetts
- Retirement--Massachusetts

Contributors

- Loomis Communities **[main entry]**
- Holyoke Home for Aged People.

Link to similar SCUA collections

Massachusetts (West)

Oral history

Women