

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
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Women's Christian Temperance Union Collection
Collection Number: 754 THL/WFCHS

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Initial processing undertaken in 1984. Last updated by Buffy Knappenberger in May 2024.

EXTENT: .42 linear feet

CREATOR: Women's Christian Temperance Union

DATE: 1811 – 1958

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES: Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection includes pamphlets and articles written about alcohol, alcoholism, and the use of alcohol related to Christianity and the Bible. Also included are the history of Winchester, VA's Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), the Frederick County, VA Temperance Convention in 1834, and various news articles.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: The Winchester chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was organized in October of 1884 in response to a call for total abstinence by Miss Jennie Smith at a Market Street Methodist Church revival. Miss Smith was known to everyone as the Railroad Evangelist. The union began with about 100 members and about the same number of honorary male members. By 1958, membership had grown to 152, but only 12 honorary male members. The work of the WCTU was mostly educational. By 1958, seven working departments were active in the local union: temperance and missions, Christian citizenship, literature, publicity, flower mission and relief, evangelism, and international relations for peace. The Winchester union held the state convention for the organization in 1851, 1892, and 1909.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of multiple donors.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

“The Alcohol Problem,” By Deets Pickett, 1 item, printed

Alcoholism Pamphlets, 8 items, printed

Bible, Christians and Alcohol, 8 items, printed

Broadsides—Temperance Meeting—Frederick County sites, May 10, 1907, 2 items, printed

Physical Location: Oversize, Box 2

“The Drunkard’s Emblem...,” by Dr. Benjamin Rush, 1811, 1 item, published

*Item includes biographical sketches of Dr. Benjamin Rush, Joseph Foster, and Bailey Shumate

Frederick County Temperance Convention - June 7, 1834, minutes, 1 item, printed

History of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union of Winchester, VA, no date, 3 leaves, typescript

Minute Book—1884—Sept. 30, 1886, manuscript, unnumbered pages

Minute Book—Oct. 30, 1890-May 29, 1895, manuscript, unnumbered pages, leather bound

Progress, Publication of the International Reform Federation, February, April, June and November, 1953, 4 items, printed

Prohibition, 2 items, printed

States and Alcohol Problem, 7 items, printed

Virginia Church Temperance Council, Inc. Bulletin, Vol. 7, No. 3, 1953

1 item, printed

“Voice from the Grave! An Argument for the Temperance Society,” by David Meade. ... Winchester, VA, printed at Republican Office, 1861, 15 pages, printed

Winchester W.C.T.U., a Brief History – 1884-1958, 1 item, typescript (copy)

PHOTOGRAPHS

[754-001] 18 people outside a brick house at Women’s Christian Temperance Union meeting at Rev. Clarence Beard’s home on Valley Avenue, Winchester, VA, 1961.

[754-002] Women’s Christian Temperance Union float for an early, if not first, Apple Blossom Parade, circa 1924