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Assistant Editor

NATALIA A. SHEVCHENKO, M.A.

Our Address:

13906, Polarstone Ct., Houston, TX, 77044

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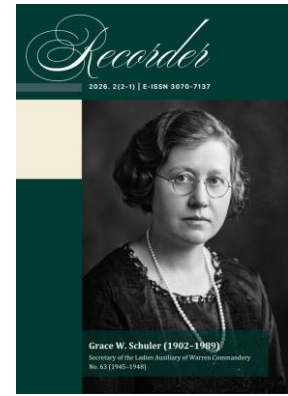
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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

In presenting this special issue (No. 2-1) of *Recorder*, we continue the journal's mission to expand and deepen the study of the history of the York Rite in the United States, with particular attention to those dimensions of Masonic life that have long remained on the periphery of scholarly inquiry. The current issue is devoted to the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63 (Pennsylvania) during the formative decade from 1938 to 1949—a period that witnessed profound transformations both within American society and within the Masonic community itself.

Traditionally, the historiography of Freemasonry has focused predominantly on male institutions, their structures, rituals, and leadership. Yet such an approach leaves incomplete the broader social reality in which these organizations functioned. The study presented in this issue demonstrates convincingly that the Ladies Auxiliary was not merely an adjunct body but an integral component of the Masonic social world. Through its activities, we gain access to the everyday practices, values, and forms of social interaction that sustained and enriched the life of the Commandery.

The materials analyzed—minute books preserved in the Archive of Cherkas Global University—allow us to trace, with remarkable clarity, the evolution of the Auxiliary from its inception to a stage of institutional maturity. Particularly noteworthy is the dynamic interplay between dependence and autonomy: while closely connected to the Commandery, the Auxiliary developed its own organizational structure, financial base, and sphere of activity. This dual character reflects a broader pattern of women's participation in fraternal culture in the United States.

The chronological scope of the study provides an opportunity to observe how the organization adapted to changing historical conditions. The wartime years stand out as a period of intensified mobilization, during which the Auxiliary became actively involved in Red Cross work and in supporting servicemen. These activities illustrate the integration of Masonic-affiliated organizations into the wider framework of American civil society during World War II. Equally significant, however, is the postwar transition, when the focus shifted toward local charity, community support, and the maintenance of internal cohesion. In this respect, the Auxiliary exemplifies the processes of social adaptation characteristic of mid-twentieth-century America.

This special issue also reflects a broader editorial direction that *Recorder* has increasingly embraced: the publication of original research grounded in archival sources. By bringing into scholarly circulation materials such as these minute books, we not only preserve historical memory but also open new avenues for interpretation. The study of local organizations, often overlooked in favor of national structures, proves essential for understanding the lived experience of Freemasonry and its associated bodies.

Finally, it is important to emphasize that the significance of this work extends beyond the history of a single Auxiliary. It invites us to reconsider the role of women within the Masonic environment and to recognize their contributions to the formation of social networks, charitable practices, and cultural life. In doing so, it enriches our understanding of Freemasonry as a complex social phenomenon embedded in the broader fabric of American history.

We trust that this issue will be of interest not only to specialists in Masonic studies but also to historians of social organizations, gender, and community life. It is our hope that it will encourage further research into similar bodies and contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced historiography of the York Rite and its institutions.

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Alexander C. Cherkas

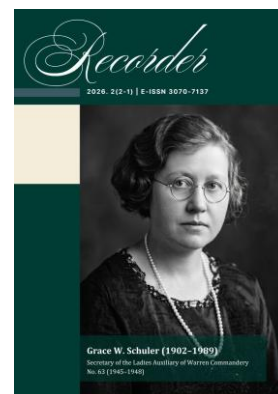
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*Original Research*

Activities of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63, Knights Templar (Warren, Pennsylvania): Results of the First Decade (1938–1949)

Natalia Shevchenko ^a^a Cherkas Global University, Houston, USA**Abstract**

This study analyzes the minute books of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63 (Warren, Pennsylvania) for the years 1938–1949 and aims to reconstruct the evolution of this organization within the broader context of Masonic and social history in the United States. Based on these sources, the process of the Auxiliary's formation as an institutionalized structure is traced, including the development of by-laws, the establishment of governing bodies, and the organization of regular activities. It is demonstrated that, even at an early stage, the Auxiliary performed not only supportive functions for the Commandery but also showed independent initiative in charitable and social activities. Particular attention is given to the transformation of its work during the Second World War, when the organization became part of the system of civilian mobilization, actively participating in Red Cross efforts and supporting servicemen. In the postwar period, a transition is observed toward a localized model of operation focused on community assistance, the strengthening of internal solidarity, and the maintenance of cultural and social activities. By the end of the period under study, the Ladies Auxiliary had developed into a stable social institution with an established structure, a solid financial base, and a broad range of charitable practices. Thus, its activities reflect key processes of social adaptation and self-organization of women's associations within the Masonic environment of the United States in the mid-twentieth century.

Keywords: Ladies Auxiliary, Warren Commandery No. 63, Knights Templar, Warren, Pennsylvania, 1938–1949.

1. Introduction

The study of Masonic history has traditionally focused primarily on the activities of male fraternities, while women's and mixed forms of participation in the Masonic social sphere have remained comparatively underexplored. At the same time, organizations such as the Ladies Auxiliary attached to Knights Templar Commanderies played a significant role in shaping the everyday social life of Masonic structures, providing both organizational support and the development of charitable initiatives.

The present work is devoted to the study of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63 (Warren, Pennsylvania), based on a body of archival minutes covering the years 1938–1949. This corpus of sources is of particular value, as it makes it possible to trace the organization's activities dynamically—from its founding to the stage of institutional maturity. The minutes record not only formal decisions and financial operations, but also everyday practices, forms of interaction with the Knights Templar, and participation in broader social processes.

The aim of this study is to identify the main stages in the development of the Auxiliary, to analyze its functions and role within the local community, and to determine the extent of its integration into the Masonic structure. Particular attention is given to the transformation of the organization's activities during the Second World War and in the postwar period, when priorities and forms of social engagement underwent significant change.

Thus, this work seeks to expand our understanding of the social history of Freemasonry in the United States and the role of women's associations as an important element of local community life.

2. Materials and Methods

The materials for this study consist of the handwritten minute books of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63, preserved in the archive of Cherkas Global University (Houston, USA), in Fond 3: *A collection of documents dedicated to the Masonic Order of the Knights Templar in the United States (1733–present)*. These records are contained in a single volume—D. 44 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44](#)) (Fig. 1). The file comprises 75 fully completed folios.

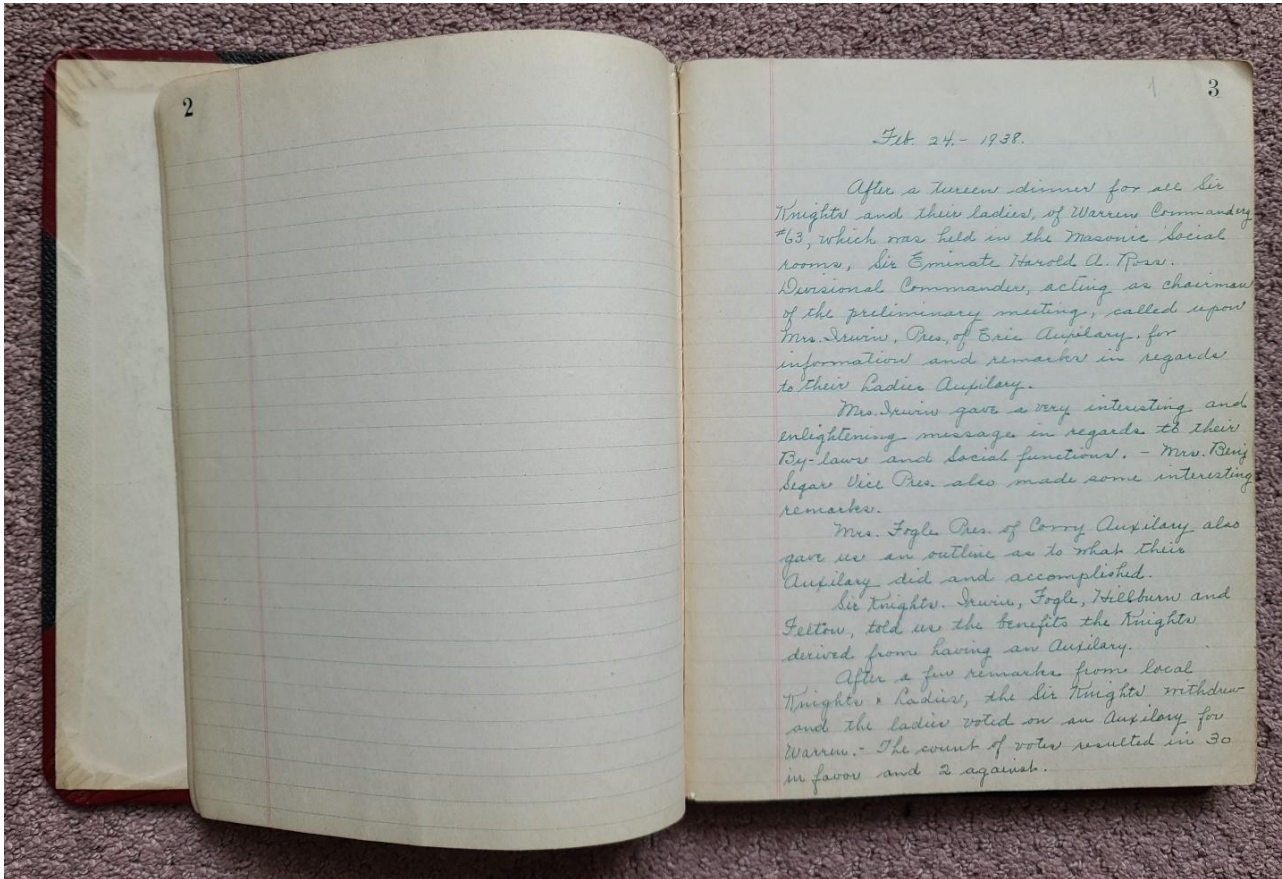


Fig. 1. D. 44 – Proceedings of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63, KT (Pennsylvania), covering the period from the organization's founding in 1938 through 1949.

The minutes cover the period from February 1938, that is, from the founding of the organization, through January 1949. After that, the records continued in another volume, but that book was not transferred to the archive for preservation.

The minutes of the meetings were recorded on a monthly basis, with the exception of July, August, and December. The entries were made using fountain pens (Fig. 2), ballpoint pens and pencils.

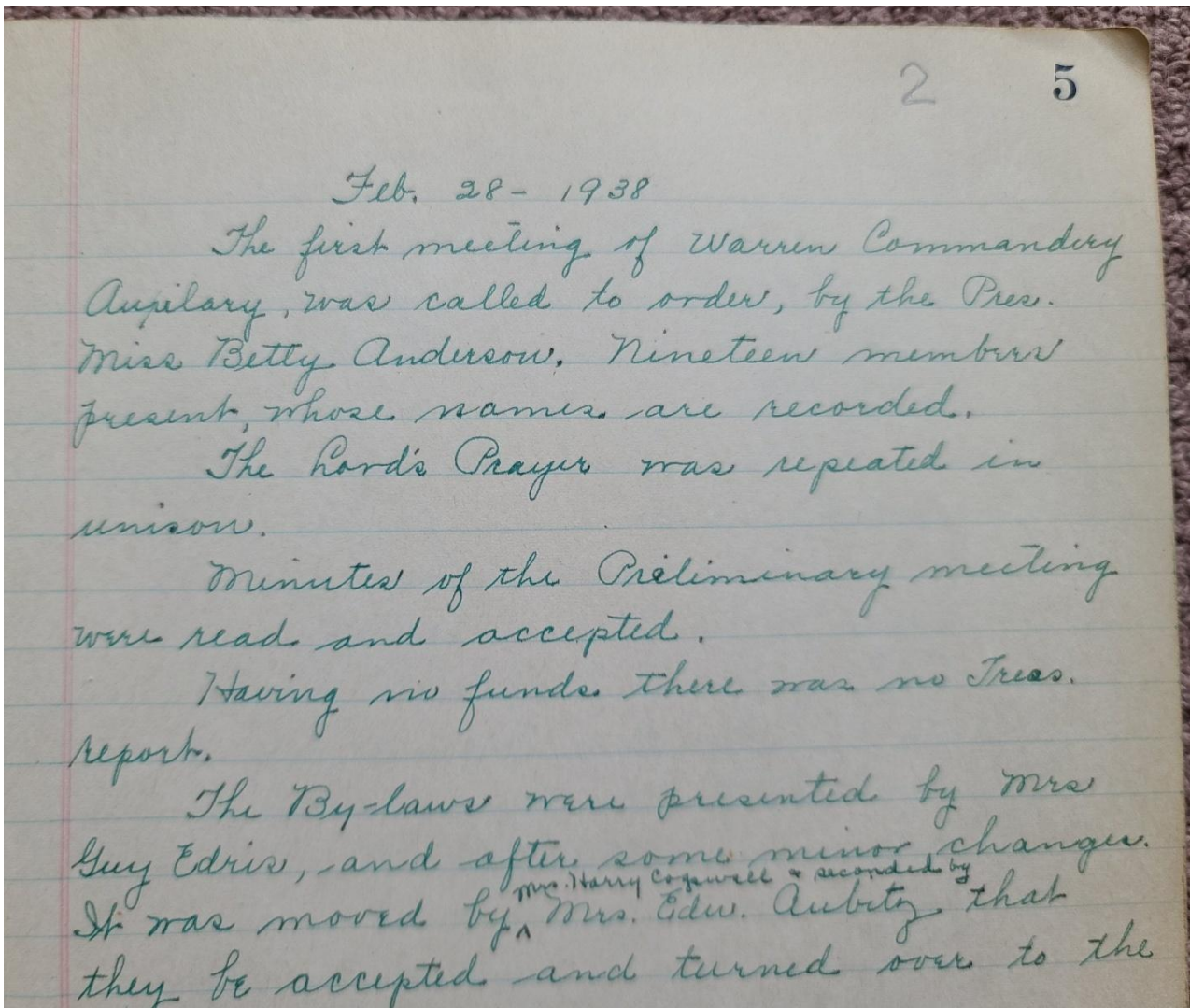


Fig. 2. Entries made in fountain pen. 1938.

It is important to note that the Ladies Auxiliary consisted of more than 90% wives of Knights Templar who served in Warren Commandery No. 63 (Warren, Pennsylvania). In the archival materials, these married women—especially in the early years of the organization—were referred to by their husbands' names, for example, *Mrs. Harold Johnson* (entry of Feb. 24, 1938). Later, the minutes begin to include the women's own given names; however, even when names are provided, middle names are usually absent, which significantly complicates identification. An exception is made for unmarried women, who were recorded under their own names, for example, *Miss Betty Anderson* (entry of Feb. 24, 1938). Nevertheless, unmarried women constituted only a small portion of the membership.

The search for personal information on members of the organization yielded rather limited results. Only one photograph of a member—Mrs. Grace W. Schuler—was identified in commercial databases; this image is presented on the cover. Unfortunately, several key figures, such as the organization's first president, Miss Betty Anderson, could not be identified in available databases.

The methodology of the study is based on the traditional principles of historical research: historicism, systematicity, and objectivity. The historical-chronological method was employed to examine the subject in its sequential development. The historical-biographical method made it possible to collect and present fragmentary data on individual members. The systematic method was used to organize the materials into a coherent analytical framework.

3. Results

Feb. 24, 1938.

After a tureen dinner for all Sir Knights and their ladies, of Warren Commandery No. 63, which was held in the Masonic Social rooms, Sir Eminent Harold C. Poss, Divisional Commander, acting as chairman of the preliminary meeting, called upon Mrs. Irwin, Pres. of Erie Auxiliary, for information and remarks in regards to their Ladies Auxiliary.

Mrs. Irwin gave a very interesting and enlightening message in regards to their By-laws and social functions. Mrs. Benj Segar Vice Pres. also made some interesting remarks.

Mrs. Fogle Pres. of Corry Auxiliary also gave us an outline as to what their Auxiliary did and accomplished.

Sir Knights Irwin, Fogle, Kilburn and Felton, told us the benefits the Knights derived from having an Auxiliary.

After a few remarks from local Knights & ladies, the Sir Knights withdrew and the ladies voted on an Auxiliary for Warren. The count of votes resulted in 30 in favor and 2 against.

An election was held as follows:

Pres. — Miss Betty Anderson

1st Vice — Mrs. Harold Johnson

2nd — Mrs. Andrew Nelson

Secty. — Mrs. Aug. A. Teller

Treas. — Mrs. Harold McNulty ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 1v](#)).

The Treasurer was the wife of Sir Knight Harold McNulty—Ruth S. McNulty (1898–1991). The couple married in 1929 ([Philomel Club 19..., 1929](#)).

The following were appointed to draw up a set of By-laws, to be presented Monday night Feb. 28 at our first meeting:

Mrs. Guy Edris

Miss Florence Shawkey

Mrs. Carl Peel

Mrs. Paul Braunschweiger

Meeting adjourned.

Attest

Mrs. Aug. A. Teller Secty ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 1-1v](#)).

Among the team for the development of the By-laws were:

- The wife of Sir Knight Guy Edris — Velva J. Edris (1899–1987). The couple married in 1926 ([Edris-Johnson, 1926](#)).

- Miss Florence Bertha Shawkey, MD (1885–1979)

She was born July 12, 1885 in Phillips County, Kansas

Florence B. Shawkey lived on the Kansas farm in Phillips County until about four years of age, then came with her parents to Tionesta, Pa., and lived in the Lawrence House (now Hotel Weaver) for some time and later in a house on Helen Street in that town. The family then moved to Warren, Pa., and made their home. She attended school in Tionesta, and graduated from Warren High School with the class of 1902, continuing there another year as a post-graduate. Taught the Yeagle school, Pleasant Township, Warren County, during the year ended May, 1904. Tutored in Latin, Greek and algebra. Attended the second semester at Syracuse University in spring of 1911; took four years work and has the A.B. degree from Goucher College at Baltimore, Md. Continued her studies in extension courses in psychology and history, from Pennsylvania State College, at Warren. Taking up a business career, she was employed in the office of Warren Trust Company, Seneca Oil Works, law office of Joseph A. Scofield, E. H. Beshlin and C. M. Shawkey, Warren Evening Mirror, and Pennsylvania Gas Company — all of Warren, Pa. She served two years as Church Secretary of First Methodist Church, also for the Church School, and taught for twelve years in the Church School. Secretary for five years of the Warren County Sunday School Association; Instructor and District Deputy of the Eastern Star. Member of the Camera Club, College Club, Zonta Club, Court of the Amaranth, Y.W.C.A., Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology, County Historical Society, Daughters of American Revolution, and New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

- The wife of Sir Knight Carl Peel — Mabel Anna Peel (1884–1964).

- The wife of Sir Knight Paul Braunschweiger — Helen Louise Braunschweiger (1896–1962). The couple married in 1919 ([Braunschweiger-Ueblacker, 1919](#)). The father of Helen Louise Braunschweiger — John A. Ueblacker — was a Mason ([Ueblacker, 1947](#)).

Feb. 28, 1938

The first meeting of Warren Commandery Auxiliary was called to order by the Pres. Miss Betty Anderson. Nineteen members present, whose names are recorded.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

Minutes of the Preliminary meeting were read and accepted.

Having no funds there was no Treas. report.

The By-laws were presented by Mrs. Guy Edris, and after some minor changes it was moved by Mrs. Edw. Aubitz that they be accepted and turned over to the Knights, carried.

The Pres. appointed the following committee to notify all Knights Templars wives or representatives of our Auxiliary and to invite them to the next meeting, which will be the 4th Monday of March. Date Mar. 28th.

- Mrs. Aug. A. Teller
- Mrs. A. J. Bourhen
- Mrs. Floyd Ahlquist
- Mrs. Edw. Aubitz
- Mrs. Harry Cogswell

Mrs. Paul Braunschweiger was appointed chair-lady for the entertainment for the next meeting, she being allowed to choose her assistant, Mrs. Henry O. Walker.

The refreshment committee for March is to be the same as for Feb.

- Mrs. Harold Johnson
- Mrs. Andrew Nelson
- Mrs. A. J. Bourhen
- Mrs. Guy Edris

No further business the meeting adjourned. After which the ladies played progressive bridge or visited, until a delicious lunch was served by committee to the Sir Knights & ladies.

Sir Eminent Poss, Divisional Commander, presented the ladies with \$10.00 to help defray expenses. The offering received at lunch time netted \$5.52. Making a total of \$15.52 for the evening.

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. Aug. A. Teller Secty ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 2-2v](#)).

Feb. 28, 1938

Members present as follows:

- Mrs. Harry Cogswell
- Mrs. Chas. Hubbard
- Mrs. Andrew Nelson
- Mrs. Floyd Ahlquist
- Mrs. Larry Amy
- Mrs. D. Culbertson
- Mrs. Homer Moore
- Mrs. Harold Poss
- Mrs. Harold Johnson
- Mrs. J. A. Vermilyea
- Miss Betty Anderson
- Mrs. A. J. Bourhen
- Mrs. Edw. Aubitz
- Mrs. Roy Krebs
- Mrs. Henry Walker
- Mrs. Paul Braunschweiger
- Mrs. John Sonne
- Mrs. T. J. Jacobs
- Mrs. Guy Edris
- Mrs. A. A. Teller

Miss Florence Shawkey		
Knights donation	10.00	
Lunch collection	5.52	15.52
Cost of refreshments	5.17	
Bal.	10.35	

Mrs. Aug. A. Teller ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 3](#)).

March 28, 1938

Regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery was called to order at 7:45, by the Pres. Miss Betty Anderson. 24 Members present.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasury report was accepted as read.

The By-laws were read for reference only. The Sir Knights acted on the By-laws and accepted them as a whole with the exception of the name, which they changed to read: The Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery. Moved by Mrs. Larry Amy and seconded by Mrs. Homer Moore, we accept the By-laws with the correction. — carried.

Refreshment committee for April:

Mrs. Larry Amy
 Mrs. Carl Peel
 Mrs. Floyd Ahlquist
 Mrs. J. A. Vermilyea

At this time the meeting was turned over to the entertainment committee, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Those attending meeting were:

Mrs. H. Johnson
 Mrs. Harold McNulty
 Mrs. A. J. Bourhen
 Mrs. P. J. Evans
 Mrs. Andrew Nelson
 Mrs. Fred Schaeffer
 Mrs. Carl Peel
 Mrs. C. W. Henderson
 Mrs. Floyd Ahlquist
 Mrs. Homer Moore
 Mrs. Henry Walker
 Miss Florence Shawkey
 Mrs. Paul Braunschweiger
 Mrs. J. A. Vermilyea
 Mrs. Guy Edris
 Mrs. D. A. Culbertson
 Mrs. W. E. Yeager
 Mrs. T. J. Jacobs
 Mrs. Larry Amy
 Mrs. Flora Gilmore
 Mrs. Bertha Mease
 Mrs. Harry Johnston

Cash on hand	10.35	
Knights donation	3.50	
Collection	7.47	21.32

Minute book80	
Refreshment committee	5.82	6.62

Bal. 14.70

Adjourned at 9:10.

Attest

Mrs. Aug. A. Teller Secty ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 3v-4](#)).

April 25, 1938

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery was called to order at 8:00 P.M. in the Masonic Social Rooms.

Lord's Prayer repeated in unison.

Reading and approving of minutes of last regular meeting.

Treas. reported \$14.70 in Treasury.

No communications.

Under new business election of Officers for the year, beginning with May.

Mrs. Harold Johnson — Pres.

Mrs. Andrew Nelson — 1st Vice Pres.

Mrs. Guy Edris — 2nd Vice

Mrs. Henry Walker, Mrs. Edw. Aubitz and Miss Betty Anderson as Trustees.

Miss Anderson to serve 3 yrs.

Mrs. Henry Walker — 2 yrs.

Mrs. Edw. Aubitz — 1 yr.

Moved by Mrs. Ahlquist 2nd by Mrs. Edris that Mrs. Teller continue as Secty and Mrs. Oel moved nominations close. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. Peel 2nd by Mrs. Jacobs that Mrs. McNulty be nominated to continue Treas. for the ensuing year.

Moved by Mrs. Amy that nominations close. — carried.

Miss Anderson, the Pres., announced that the Ladies Auxiliary should be at the Y.M.C.A. on Thurs. Eve. to receive all visitors.

Mrs. Ahlquist, McNulty, Vermilyea, Edris & Amy volunteered to make sandwiches on Thurs. P.M.

The following ladies were present at our meeting, 12 in all:

Miss Betty Anderson

Mrs. J. G. Jacobs

Mrs. Hutchins

Mrs. Henderson

Mrs. Edris

Mrs. Vermilyea

Mrs. Amy

Mrs. Peel

Mrs. Ahlquist

Mrs. McNulty

Mrs. Moore

Mrs. Teller

Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Mathis came later.

No further business the meeting adjourned.

Entertainment were cards.

Cash on hand 14.70

Received from Knights 3.50

Refreshment collection 4.00

Total Receipts of the Evening 7.50

Expense of refreshments 6.01

Gain 1.49

Total cash on hand 16.19

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. Aug. A. Teller Secty ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 4v-5](#)).

May 16, 1938

Meeting opened with Lord's Prayer.

Minutes approved as read.

Suggestion was made to have each member present make it a point to call one person, to ask them to come to next meeting.

Mrs. Moore reported on those whom she called.

Mrs. Moore was appointed chairman of refreshment committee for June. She to appoint her own helpers.

Miss Shawkey was appointed chairman of the entertainment committee for June. She also to appoint her own helpers.

No new business, so meeting was turned over to Mrs. Krebs, the chairman for entertainment.

The following members were present:

Miss Florence Shawkey

Mrs. A. W. Mumford

Mrs. C. E. Johnson

Miss Betty Anderson

Mrs. Guy Edris

Mrs. Cramer

Mrs. Vermilyea

Mrs. Krebs

Mrs. Amy

Mrs. Moore

Mrs. Andrew Nelson

Mrs. Harold Johnson

Mrs. C. Braunschweiger

Mrs. Mathis

Mrs. Hutchins

Mrs. Poss

Mrs. Sonne

Cash on hand 16.19

Received from Knights 3.50

Refreshment collection 4.95

Total receipts of evening 8.45
Expense of refreshments 4.90
Gain for evening 3.55
Total cash on hand 19.74 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 5v-6](#)).

June 27, 1938

Regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery.

Minutes approved as read.

Discussed a tureen dinner for Sept. meeting. Membership list to be divided and members called.

Entertainment dispensed with and Miss Shawkey to take care of entertainment in Sept.

Those present were as follows:

Mrs. Evans

Miss Shawkey

Mrs. Moore

Mrs. Gilmore

Mrs. Mease

Mrs. Edris

Mrs. Johnson

Miss Anderson

Cash on hand 19.74

Received from Knights 3.50

Expense for refreshments 2.84

Total gain for evening66

Total cash on hand 20.40 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 6v](#)).

Sept. 26, 1938

After a tureen dinner for all Sir Knights and Ladies, a well attended business meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by Acting Pres. Mrs. Dorothy Nelson, in the absence of the Pres. Mrs. Harold Johnson.

Secty and Treas reports were read and approved.

A discussion was brought up on what might be done for Christmas for Gen. Hospital. Nothing definite was decided upon until further information could be obtained.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned and Miss Shawkey took charge of the entertainment that followed.

Ruth McNulty (Acting Secty.)

Refreshment committee: Mabel Peel, Edith Ahlquist, Dorothy Nelson, Isabelle Beck, Bessie Keller ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 7](#)).

Oct. 24, 1938

Regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the President Mrs. Johnson, by repeating the Lord's Prayer.

Secty & Treas. report was accepted as read.

Discussion was continued on what to be done for Gen. Gen. Hospital. And after several had voiced opinions it was decided to do something for some needy family in our own community. Mrs. Aubitz was selected to find a poor family, with Mrs. Cogswell and Mrs. Beck to work in conjunction and report at our next meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Peel 2nd by Mrs. McNulty that we have a card party on Nov. 18th. Carried.

Mrs. Edris to be chairman (with Betty Anderson assisting) for the card tables, with Mrs. Vermilyea as chairman for refreshments, with Mrs. Greenland and Mrs. Bourhen assisting.

Mrs. Teller to have charge of prizes for the party — 2 for auction and 2 for contract. Other games could be played if anyone so wished but no prizes for other games.

The following members were present:

Mrs. Aubitz, Mrs. Greenland, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Nelson, Beck, Anderson, Ahlquist, Edris, Vermilyea, Cogswell, Krebs, McNulty, Peel, Johnson & Teller.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. After which the ladies were invited to the lodge rooms by the Sir Knights to enjoy a short program, given by some of the Y.M.C.A. boys. After which the committee in charge served refreshments.

Attest

Bessie Teller Secty.

Cash on hand 20.40
 Received from Knights 3.00
 Total cash on hand 23.40 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 7v-8](#)).

Nov. 28, 1938

Regular meeting of Ladies Auxiliary of Knights Templar was held in Masonic Social rooms. Meeting called to order by Pres. Mrs. Harold Johnson.

Minutes were read and approved.

Mrs. Aubitz as chairman of refreshment committee for the evening.

There not being fresh loaf, ladies gave amount of cash on hand, which amounted to \$23.70.

Receipts from card party were \$36.50 — giving total receipts \$36.50 — leaving a balance for our share of \$11.50 from card party.

Mrs. Cramer gave a report on a needy family near Oilfield.

Mrs. Cramer gave the report, which was \$17.75 used. By the name of [unclear] — a motion by Mrs. Nelson seconded by Mrs. [unclear] that the Ladies Auxiliary buy a pair of shoes and groceries, not to exceed \$6.50. To be bought at Harris Boot Shop, also any donations for the family Mrs. Cramer had reference of to be given to Mrs. Cramer.

There present at the meeting were:

Mrs. Evans, Aubitz, Edris, Dickenson, Braunschweiger, Johnson, Cramer, Moore, Peddering, Beck, Nelson, Gilmore, Cogswell, Teller.

Mrs. Cramer was appointed chairman of Jan meeting, no meeting to be had in Dec.

Entertainment in Jan is to be joint with Knights Templars.

No further business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. Aug. A. Teller, Secty.

Cash on hand Oct. 24 23.40

Balance left from Card Party 11.50

Received from Knights 3.50

Total 38.40

Evening refreshments 3.50

Balance on hand to date 34.90 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 8v-9](#)).

In general, the materials of the minutes for 1938 allow us to conclude that the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63 had already, in its first year of existence, formed into a stable and functionally structured organization. Emerging under the influence of similar associations in neighboring towns, it quickly acquired institutional features—developing its by-laws, electing officers, and establishing regular activities. Over the course of the year, the Auxiliary not only provided social support for Commandery events but also demonstrated its own initiative in charitable and community activities, gradually shifting its focus from internal Masonic needs to assistance for the local community.

At the same time, the sources indicate a close and organic connection between the Auxiliary and the Knights Templar, manifested both in financial support from the Sir Knights and in joint activities, as well as in the recognition of the practical value of the women’s organization. In this context, the Auxiliary served as an important channel for the inclusion of women in the Masonic social sphere, fulfilling functions of social coordination, mutual aid, and the organization of leisure. Despite limited financial resources, the association’s activities were marked by regularity, discipline, and a high level of self-organization.

Thus, by the end of 1938, the Ladies Auxiliary had evolved beyond a merely auxiliary body into a significant element of local Masonic culture, contributing both to the internal cohesion of the fraternity and to its social representation in the wider community.

1939

Jan. 23, 1939

Regular meeting of Ladies Auxiliary of Knights Templar was held in the social rooms of the Masonic Temple. Previous to the meeting a tureen dinner was held for the Sir Knights and ladies, under the capable chairman Mrs. Stanley Cramer and her committee.

Meeting was opened by repeating the Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes were read and approved.

In the absence of the treas. the Secty read the Treas. report — accepted.

A communication from Kenneth Hoyt was read, expressing his appreciation and thanks for the shoes and galoshes the ladies gave him at Christmas time.

A discussion followed in regards to serving tureen dinners each night to the Knights & ladies. After which it was moved by Mrs. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Cramer that we have another tureen previous to our

Feb. meeting. The President Mrs. Johnson appointed Mrs. Gerald Rickerson as chairman and she to choose her committee.

Mrs. Johnson said we were to join with the Knights in the entertainment for Feb.

The following members were present:

Ahlquist, Yeager, Flowers, Edris, Mathis, Vermilyea, Mrs. G. Rickerson, Mrs. Arthur Rickerson, Swicks, Beck, Braunschweiger, McCausland, Peel, Johnston, Johnson, Poss, Aubitz, Miller, Betty Anderson, Gilmore, Moore, Mease, Suring, Nelson, Walker, Krebs, Cramer, Keller, Johnson.

Cash on hand Nov. 28	34.90
Dec. Expenses, Kenneth Hoyt	5.38
Jan. Balance	29.52
Jan. 23 — received from Knights	3.50
from Dinner Collection	7.04
Receipts of evening	10.54
Dinner Expenses	1.70
Balance for Evening	8.84
Jan Balance	29.52
Jan. 23rd Balance on hand to date	38.36

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. Aug. A. Teller, Secty ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 9v-10](#)).

Feb. 27, 1939

A regular meeting of Ladies Auxiliary of Knights Templars, was held in the social rooms of the Masonic Temple.

Previous to the meeting a tureen dinner for the Ladies & Knights was served under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gerald Rickerson.

Meeting opened at 8:00 P.M. by repeating the Lord's Prayer.

Those present were the following:

Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Greenland, Mrs. Swick, Mrs. Burhen, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Suring, Mrs. McCausland, Mrs. Culbertson, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Gilmore, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Schuler, Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Edris, Mrs. Krebs, Betty Anderson, Mrs. Teller.

Minutes were read and approved.

In the absence of the Treas. the Secty read the Treas. report.

The Pres. appointed Mrs. Burhen and Mrs. Flowers on the nominating committee for Secty and Treas.

Mrs. Henry Walker for refreshments for March meeting.

Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Johnston for entertainment.

Moved by Mrs. Johnston and seconded by Mrs. Walker that we have a tureen dinner for our March meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. A. A. Teller ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 10v](#)).

In 1939, Mrs. Grace W. Schuler (1902–1989) joined the organization. She was born on August 1, 1902, in Pennsylvania. In her youth, she lived with her family in Beaver, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. After her marriage, she moved to Warren, Warren County, Pennsylvania. In Warren, she led an active social life as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Among all the members of this organization, we were able to identify only one photograph—that of Mrs. Grace W. Schuler (Fig. 3). She passed away on March 16, 1989.



Fig. 3. Grace W. Schuler (1902–1989)

March 27, 1939

Miss Betty Anderson led devotional.

The 23 Psalm was repeated in unison, and Miss Anderson read an appropriate poem.

Moved by Mrs. Braunschweiger and seconded by Mrs. Edris, that the office of Secty & Treas. be combined. Carried.

28 members present.

It was agreed upon that we have a tureen dinner at the next meeting, Mrs. J. E. Pedding being appointed chairman.

Cash on hand to date \$38.36.

Mrs. Helen Walker was elected to the office of Secty & Treas. for the year of 1939.

Respectfully submitted

(by Mrs. Helen Walker) Mrs. A. A. Teller, Secty ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 11](#)).

April 24, 1939

The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.

There were twenty-six members present.

The minutes of the last meeting and the Treas. report were read by Mrs. Keller. They were approved.

Mrs. Howard Johnson, our retiring President, expressed her appreciation for the cooperation which she received during her term of office.

Mrs. Krebs was named chairman for the next meeting and it was moved and seconded that there be a tureen dinner.

Cash on hand Mar. 27 38.36
 Collection 3.89
42.25

Dinner Exp. (Meat) 5.25
 Balance on hand to date 37.00

Respectfully submitted,
 Helen M. Walker
 Secy Treas ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 11v](#)).

May 15, 1939

The meeting was called to order by the President and the Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.
 Mrs. Nelson read a very beautiful parable in commemoration of Mother's Day.
 The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Beck invited the Ladies Auxiliary and Knights Templars to a picnic at their cottage on June 19th. It was moved and seconded that we accept the invitation.

Mrs. Keller was appointed chairman for the picnic.

Cash on hand April 24 37.00
 Profit on Bingo Game 2.25
39.25

Dinner expenses50
 Balance on hand to date 38.75

Meats – Picnic 2.62
36.13

There being no new or unfinished business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Secy-Treas ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 12](#)).

September 25, 1939

The meeting was called to order by the President with the leader repetition of the Twenty-Third Psalm.
 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

The subject of raising money for the Conclave was brought up and discussed. It was decided that a card party would be given. It was moved by Mrs. Keller and seconded by Mrs. Peel that we hold the party, voted upon and unanimously passed. Mrs. Vermilyea – Chairman.

The subject of a Christmas gift was discussed and Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cramer were appointed to find someone needing our help.

It was voted that the next meeting be a tureen dinner. Mrs. Evans was appointed chairman.

Helen M. Walker, Secy.

Cash on hand 36.13
 From Commandery for Picnic Meat 3.00
 Collection 2.04

Balance 41.17 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 12v](#)).

Oct. 23, 1939

The meeting was opened by the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The card party for Nov. 9th was discussed. It is hoped each member will take one or more tables.

The report on the Xmas gift will be given at the next meeting.

Mrs. Nelson thanked the committee for the tureen dinner.

There being no unfinished or new business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Helen Walker

Secy Treas.

Balance 41.17
 Collection 3.72
 Cash on hand 44.89

Nov. 10

Card Party 25.00

Balance 69.89 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 13](#)).

Nov. 27, 1939

The meeting was opened with the Lord's Prayer.

To minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

Mrs. Cramer and Mrs. Johnson reported that a worthy family had been found, & being the Christmas Committee. Another gift was voted that \$5.00 be donated for money to be given the mother and used for the children.

Mrs. Nelson reported the appreciation of the committee receiving and the poor of [unclear].

It was decided that the next meeting have a tureen dinner.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cash on hand 69.89

Collection 3.50

Balance 73.39

\$73.39

15.00 Xmas gift

\$58.39

Helen M. Walker ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 13v](#)).

Overall, the minutes for 1939 indicate a further strengthening and stabilization of the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63. Unlike the previous year, when the organization was in a formative stage, by 1939 it was already functioning as an established structure with well-developed forms of work, regular meetings, and stable traditions. The close connection with the Knights Templar was maintained, expressed in joint events, financial interaction, and coordination of activities; at the same time, the Auxiliary demonstrated increasing independence in decision-making and in organizing its own initiatives.

The organization's activities acquired a more systematic character: the regular holding of joint dinners, charitable actions, and fundraising events (in particular, card parties) became an integral part of its functioning. Particular importance continued to be attached to charitable work aimed at supporting needy members of the local community, highlighting the Auxiliary's social role as an instrument of local mutual aid. At the same time, there was a development of the internal organizational structure, including the optimization of management (the merging of the offices of secretary and treasurer) and the maintenance of discipline in record-keeping and financial matters.

Financial indicators show a gradual increase in funds, demonstrating the effectiveness of the events held and the organization's capacity for self-financing. At the same time, the important role of donations from the Commandery was preserved. In social terms, the Auxiliary continued to function as an association that fostered cohesion among women within the Masonic environment, organized leisure activities, and strengthened interpersonal ties.

Thus, by the end of 1939, the Ladies Auxiliary had become a mature and stably functioning organization, integrated into the structure of the Masonic community, possessing its own practices of social, charitable, and cultural activity, and playing a notable role in the life of the local community.

1940

Jan. 22, 1940

Meeting was opened by the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

A communication from Mrs. Waters was read.

A committee was appointed for raising money for the Conclave. Those appointed were Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Krebs, Mrs. McNulty, Mrs. Edris.

Mrs. Nelson thanked the committee which had charge of the tureen dinner and welcomed our new members.

Mrs. Maas and Mrs. Delmar were appointed for next month.

It was moved by Mrs. Ahlquist that the meeting be adjourned and seconded by Mrs. Krebs. The motion was carried.

Collection at table 4.09

Check from Mrs. Waters 1.00

Cash on hand 58.39

Balance 63.48

Respectfully submitted

Helen M. Walker ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 14](#)).

Feb. 23, 1940

With thirty members in attendance the meeting was opened by the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes were approved as read. Mrs. Nelson welcomed the new members and thanked the committee which served for the tureen dinner.

On the reports of committees, Mrs. Keller stated that Friday night the 12th of April had been chosen as the time for the card party. There will be various games beside cards. Everyone is to furnish extra card tables, covers, lunch cloths and napkins if possible. Plans will be further discussed at the next meeting.

There being no new business the meeting was adjourned.

Cash on hand 63.48

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Walker ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 14v](#)).

March 25, 1940

The meeting was opened with the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

Mrs. Keller discussed plans for the Card Party to be held April 12th and Mrs. Nelson appointed Mrs. Krebs and Mrs. Schulze on the kitchen committee.

We were reminded that the election of officers will be held at the next meeting.

There being no new business it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Balance on hand \$63.48

Collection 1.91

New Balance \$65.39

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Walker

Receipts – Card Party 23.35

Old Balance 65.39

Cash on hand 88.74 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 15](#)).

April 22, 1940

The meeting was called to order by the President with the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

A letter from Mr. Reichert of Erie was read concerning a committee of four to help at the Conclave. It was decided to contribute \$5.00 towards a gift to Paul M. Moore, Right Eminent Grand Commander.

It was voted that we have a tureen dinner at the next meeting.

Mrs. Nelson, our retiring president, expressed her appreciation for the cooperation she has received during the past year and welcomed the new president, Mrs. Guy Edris.

Helen M. Walker was elected as Secy.-Treas.

Cash on hand 88.74

Card party 2.00

Collection 6.65

(Special – possibly “Dime/Drive/Div.”, unclear) 0.50

Total 97.89 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 15v](#)).

May, 1940

Meeting opened by repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The Conclave at Erie was discussed at some length. It was moved by Mrs. Peel and seconded by Mrs. Keller that the Auxiliary pay for the ladies dinner.

Mrs. Keller moved that there be a tureen dinner at the September meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cash on hand \$97.89

Gift to Paul M. Moore 5.00

Balance 92.89

Harold A. Rose (dinners at Erie) 50.00

Balance 42.89

Collection 3.02

Balance 45.91

Refund from check to H.A. Rose 25.62

Balance 71.53 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 16](#)).

Oct. 4, 1940

The first meeting of the season was called to order by the president with the repetition of the Lord's Prayer. There were twenty-five members present.

The minutes and Treas. report stood approved as read.

A letter of thanks was read from Mrs. Paul Moore.

It was voted that we have a tureen dinner at the next meeting.

Mrs. Keller suggested we do Red Cross work during the meetings. The subject was discussed at some length and Mrs. Reading moved that the Auxiliary do the work if she can get it. The motion was seconded. Mrs. Keller was appointed to inquire into the matter.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cash on hand \$70.13

E. M. Walker

Sec'y Treas ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 16v](#)).

Nov. (1940)

The meeting was called to order by the president with the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The sewing project was in full swing.

The next meeting date being two days before Christmas, it was voted to postpone the meeting until January.

It was voted that sewing be done at the January meeting and that there also be a tureen dinner.

Mrs. Nelson suggested we duplicate our season gift to some worthy family.

There being no new or unfinished business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cash on hand 70.13

Collection 3.60

Balance 73.73

E. M. Walker

Sec'y Treas ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 17](#)).

Overall, the minutes for 1940 reflect the continued development of the Ladies Auxiliary as a fully established and steadily functioning organization, with a noticeable expansion of its activities and a strengthening of its public orientation. While maintaining traditional forms of work—regular meetings, shared dinners, and close interaction with the Knights Templar—the Auxiliary became increasingly involved in broader social and even quasi-public initiatives, particularly those connected with preparations for the Conclave and participation in intercity events.

Especially indicative is the growth of organizational and financial activity: the holding of card parties and other fundraising events led to a significant increase in the budget, enabling the Auxiliary to take part in larger expenditures, including support for Commandery events and the financing of public initiatives. At the same time, financial operations became more complex and diversified, encompassing both donations and the redistribution of funds for collective needs.

A significant innovation was the shift toward broader public engagement beyond the framework of local charity. Discussions and the initiation of work for the Red Cross testify to the Auxiliary's inclusion in the nationwide context of social mobilization in the late 1930s and early 1940s. At the same time, the traditional practice of assisting needy families was preserved, underscoring the continuity of the organization's core values.

Thus, by the end of 1940, the Ladies Auxiliary appears as a mature, financially strengthened, and socially active structure which, while remaining part of the Masonic community, gradually expanded the scope of its activities—from local support and internal social functions to participation in wider public and charitable initiatives.

1941

Jan. 27, 1941

The January business meeting was opened by the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

It was moved by Mrs. Keller and seconded by Mrs. Vermilyea that there be a tureen dinner next meeting.

The advisability of continuing the Red Cross sewing project was discussed and it was decided that we would continue the work as long as we were given small garments to work on as our time is limited. Mrs. Keller has charge of the Red Cross work.

Cash on hand 73.73

Collection 2.15

Balance 75.88 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 17v](#)).

Feb. 24, 1941

The meeting was opened with the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

It was moved that the Christmas present to Mrs. Anderson, which was not attended to at Christmas time be taken care of immediately.

It was also moved and seconded that the Auxiliary buy yarn and needles to make afghans for the needy over seas. Mrs. Keller was appointed to purchase the necessary materials.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cash on hand 75.88

Present to Mrs. Anderson 15.00

..... 60.88

Collection 2.50

Balance 63.38 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 18](#)).

March (1941)

The meeting was opened with the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

The Sec'y & Treas. report was read by Helen Braunschweiger and stood approved as read.

A letter was received from Mrs. Anderson thanking the Auxiliary for the check received from us.

Grace Schuler, Edith Alquist and Helen Braunschweiger were appointed on the nominating committee.

Yarn was received and the evening was spent in knitting squares.

Cash on hand 63.38

Received from collection 3.63

Balance 67.01 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 18v](#)).

April (1941)

The meeting was called to order by the President with the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

In the absence of the Sec'y Treas. the minutes were read by Betty Anderson. They stood approved as read.

Mrs. Edith Alquist gave the report of the nominating committee. Mrs. Vera Milgren was elected Sec'y Treas. for the coming year.

Mrs. Keller asked that all would please get their afghan squares to her for blocking as soon as possible. She also reminded everyone about the squares for our list and Mrs. Lewis' afghan.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Entertainment was furnished by the Knights Templar.

Cash on hand 67.01

Spent for yarn 2.07

Balance 59.94 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 19](#)).

Sept. 22, 1941

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Krebs, with 21 members present. The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Enough blocks have been handed in for a "hit and miss" afghan. Mrs. Schwing is buying the yarn to put this afghan together with and Mrs. Sonne is doing the work.

Mrs. Keller was asked to see about more Red Cross sewing for our next meeting.

All present were in favor of another tureen dinner next month.

Mrs. Rose was appointed chairman with Mrs. Redding, Mrs. Sonne and Mrs. Keller as her committee.

Mrs. Schwing moved the meeting be adjourned, Mrs. Alquist seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Sec.

Mrs. G. A. V. Milgren ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 19v](#)).

Oct. 27, 1941

The meeting was called to order by the vice president, Edith Alquist, with repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Some of the tablecloths need mending, Mrs. Schwing volunteered to mend them.

It was decided to have a Sauer Kraut dinner for our January meeting.

Mrs. Keller moved that the secretary have cards printed for the year and send them out each month to the members. Mrs. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Volunteers were asked for the November committee; the following responded: Mrs. Mohr, chairman – Mrs. Gilmore – Mrs. Amy – Mrs. Court.

The “hit and miss” afghan was on display. Mrs. Keller on behalf of the Red Cross, thanked the Auxiliary for the other afghan they made.

Mrs. Ross moved we make another afghan, as there were a number of blocks left over.

Mrs. Keller was unable to get any hand sewing for this meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Sec. Mrs. G. A. V. Milgren

Balance	60.53
Coll.	2.02
Yarn refund60
	63.15
Cards for Oct.55
	62.60
Cards for next year	5.00
	57.60 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 20-20v).

Nov. 24, 1941

The meeting was called to order by the vice-president, Edith Alquist, with repetition of the Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Christmas donations were discussed. It was moved by Dorothy Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Sonne that we give Mrs. Anderson \$5.00 for Christmas. The motion carried.

Mrs. Sonne moved we send a scrap-book to Beulah Krebs, who is ill. Mrs. Redding seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Members were reminded of the afghan squares.

There will be no meeting in December and January will be a Sauerkraut Supper.

Meeting adjourned.

Sec. Mrs. G. A. V. Milgren

Balance	57.60
Coll.	1.62
	59.22
gifts	16.00
(check 1.00 / Mrs. Anderson 15.00)	
Bal.	43.22 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 21).

Overall, the minutes for 1941 demonstrate a noticeable shift in the character of the Ladies Auxiliary’s activities, associated with a transition from predominantly local social engagement to a more pronounced charitable and humanitarian orientation, shaped by the broader international context of the early 1940s. While preserving its traditional forms of work—regular meetings, shared dinners, and close ties with the Knights Templar—the organization increasingly focused on practices of assistance that extended beyond its immediate community.

Particularly indicative is the systematic participation in Red Cross projects, as well as the organization of producing items for those in need, including aid “overseas,” which reflects the Auxiliary’s integration into a wider humanitarian discourse and the emerging wartime mobilization of civil society. Charitable activity took on more concrete and labor-intensive forms (sewing, knitting, making afghans), pointing to a growing practical contribution by members to supporting those in need. At the same time, local support was maintained—assistance to individual members, care for the sick, and traditional Christmas donations.

Organizationally, the Auxiliary remained a stable structure, with regular rotation of officers, an established communication system, and a solid financial base, although financial resources were increasingly directed toward charitable purposes. Thus, by the end of 1941, the Ladies Auxiliary appears as a mature association which, while remaining part of the Masonic environment, adapted its activities to new historical conditions, strengthening the humanitarian and socially significant dimensions of its work.

1942

Jan. 26, 1942

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Beulah Krebs with repetition of the Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Krebs thanked the auxiliary for the remembrance during her illness.

The Afghan was discussed and we still need blocks.

It was decided to do Red Cross sewing at the next meeting if it were possible to get any hand work.
It was decided to have a tureen dinner the next meeting with the following committee –
Isabel Bender, chairman – Velma Ednie, Evelyn Johnson and Dorothy Nelson.
The meeting was adjourned.
Sec. Mrs. G. A. V. Milgren

Bal. 43.22 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 21v](#)).

Feb. 23, 1942

Meeting was called to order by the President, Beulah Krebs, with repetition of the Lord’s Prayer.
Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.
Squares are still needed for the afghan.

Was decided to have a tureen dinner with Mrs. Krebs, chairman, Grace Schuler, Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. C. H. Blair as committee.

The meeting was adjourned.
Cynthia Van Milgen, Sec.

Bal. 43.22
Coll. 2.43
 45.65
Cards 0.16
 45.49 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 22](#)).

Mar. 23, 1942

Meeting was called to order by the President, Beulah Krebs, with repetition of the Lord’s Prayer.
Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.
Red Cross work was discussed.

Mrs. Nelson moved we buy yarn and make another afghan. Mrs. Blair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sonne was appointed to buy whatever yarn she decided upon for it.

All members asked to bring knitting needles and a ruler to the next meeting.

Grace Schuler moved we give Mrs. Sonne a rising vote of thanks for all she has done toward making and putting our afghans together. The one on display this evening was very pretty.

Mrs. Cozwell and Mrs. Rose were reported on the sick list.

Dorothy Nelson, Grace Schuler, and Evelyn Johnson were appointed on the nominating committee.

Was decided to have a tureen dinner for the next meeting and the following committee –

Cynthia Van Milgen – Chairman,
Dorothy Nelson,
Betty Anderson,
Grace Schuler.
The meeting adjourned.
Cynthia Van Milgen, Sec.

Bal. 45.49
Coll. 0.99
 46.48
Cards 0.14
 46.34 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 23-23v](#)).

Apr. 27, 1942

Meeting was called to order by Edith Alquist in the absence of Beulah Krebs. Lord’s Prayer was repeated in unison.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

In the absence of the nominating committee it was decided to wait until the next meeting to elect a secretary and treasurer.

Note from Beulah Krebs was read.

Mrs. Sonne brought the yarn for another afghan.

Meeting was adjourned.
Sec. Cynthia Van Milgen

Bal.	46.34
Ref.	0.86
Cards	0.07
Yarn	6.05
	6.98
Bal.	39.36 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 24).

May 18, 1942

The meeting was called to order by the President, Edith Ahlquist. We prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dorothy Nelson reported for the nominating committee that Elsie Culbertson had accepted the nomination for Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Mrs. Sonne moved the nominating committee be relieved of their duties and the nominations closed. The motion carried. The secretary cast the ballot for Mrs. Culbertson, electing her Secretary and Treasurer for the coming year.

The piecing of quilts for the Red Cross was discussed. Mrs. Keller donated the blocks for a quilt if the Auxiliary cared to put it together. It was decided that we should bring pieces of material to the June meeting for the starting of a quilt.

Mrs. Cramer moved we have a dinner in June. Mrs. Keller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Schwing, Mrs. Sonne, Mrs. Schuler and Mrs. Cramer volunteered to help Mrs. Ahlquist with the June dinner.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sec. Cynthia Van Milgen

Bal.	39.36
Coll.	1.65
Bal.	41.01 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 24v-25).

June 22, 1942

A tureen dinner at 6:30 o'clock with twenty-six Sir Knights and ladies attending was followed by the business meeting, opened by the President, Edith Ahlquist, with repetition of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The secretary's report of the May meeting was read and approved.

The question was raised by the President whether we order more cards for notices. Motion was made and seconded that we discontinue the cards for the present time. The Secretary volunteered to call the members who would not receive a notice otherwise.

A suggestion was then made by the President that we send some gifts to our boys and girls in service. A discussion followed which resulted in the President appointing the following committee for decision and action on this matter:

- Grace Schuler – Chairman
- Lottie Covent
- Isabel Gunther
- Velva Edris

Thanks were rendered to Bertie Keller for the gift of pieced blocks enough for two quilt tops, and Mrs. Sonne graciously consented to take charge of purchasing linings and other materials needed to finish the quilts.

A date was set for one o'clock Wednesday, July 15, to meet at the Temple Rooms for the purpose of sewing them.

Mrs. Minnie Sonne was given a rising vote of thanks for her excellent work on the Red Cross afghan. It was beautiful and much praised by all who saw it.

There being nothing more brought up for discussion, the meeting was adjourned until the 4th Monday in September when we again meet for a tureen dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Culbertson, Sec.

Treasurer's Report:

May Balance	41.01
June Collection	0.89
Balance	41.90
Paid (for soldiers kits)	13.50
Balance Sept. 21	28.40 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 25v-26).

Sept. 28, 1942

A tureen dinner was held in Masonic Temple Ass'n Bldg. with thirty-two Sir Knights and ladies in attendance.

A business meeting of the Auxiliary followed with Josephine Mathis in the chair substituting for Edith Ahlquist, Pres.

The meeting was opened with repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

Followed by reports of Sec. & Treas. also the reading of letters from boys in the Service thanking the Aux. for gifts sent to them.

An open discussion was then held resulting in the following motions being passed:

To continue the monthly dinners so long as advisable.

That all outstanding bills be presented and paid.

Sending a card of thanks to Mrs. Charles Schuler at Sheffield thanking her for her help in the serving.

Decision to send further gifts to our boys in service and the committee instructed to act.

Volunteers for the supervision of the next dinner were:

Cynthia Van Milgen – Chairman

Isabel Burkham

Georgia Kramer

Motion was then made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Elsie Culbertson, Sec.

Treas. Report:

Treasurer's Report:

Balance Sept. 21 28.40

Collection 2.22

Total 30.62

Amount of Bills Paid 11.02

Balance in Treasury 19.85 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 26v-27](#)).

Oct. 26, 1942

A tureen dinner was held with thirty-eight Sir Knights and ladies in attendance.

The business meeting was opened by the President, Edith Ahlquist. The Lord's Prayer repeated in unison was followed by the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and Treasurer's report.

Reports of committees were then given and a motion made and seconded that Xmas cards be sent to our boys in Service.

Volunteers for the November dinner were:

Bertie Keller – Chairman

Dorothy Nelson

Maybelle Darvis

Meeting was adjourned and the sewing of the Auxiliary taken up.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie Culbertson, Sec.

Treas. Report:

Oct. 26 Bal. 19.60

Collection 3.70

Gift to Memorial 1.00

Total 24.30

Bills Paid 2.90

Balance 21.40 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 27v](#)).

Nov. 24, 1942

Meeting called to order by the President, Edith Ahlquist.

Opened with repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes were read and approved of the October meeting.

Letter read from Robert Kindler.

Grace Schuler, Chairman of Committee of "Boys in the Service," reported:

Cards sent to Bill Kindler and Charles Cubitz, others ready for mailing.

The next meeting will be held the fourth Monday in January with the following committee in charge:

Carrie Cubitz – Chairman

Beulah Krebs

Grace Schuler

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Van Milgen
Acting Sec.

Treas. Report:

Nov. 24 Balance 21.40
Collection 2.70
Gift Mrs. Kottkamp 1.00
“Bal. for Cotton Bat” 0.79
Amount in Treasury 24.31 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 28).

Overall, the materials for 1942 indicate a further transformation in the character of the Ladies Auxiliary’s activities under the influence of wartime conditions, reflected in the strengthening of its practical, mobilizational, and humanitarian orientation. The organization maintained its structural stability, regular meetings, and traditional forms of interaction with the Knights Templar; however, the content of its activities increasingly shifted toward supporting the war effort and assisting those in service.

A key direction became systematic work for the Red Cross, including the production of quilts, afghans, and the preparation of materials, as well as the organization of collective labor (sewing, knitting, and gathering supplies). Alongside this, an important place was occupied by support for servicemen—the so-called “boys in service”—to whom gifts, letters, and Christmas greetings were sent, demonstrating the Auxiliary’s integration into the nationwide practice of moral and material support for the military.

At the same time, the internal cohesion of the organization was preserved, expressed through collective forms of activity, mutual support among members, and the continuation of traditional events (such as shared dinners), although these gradually assumed a secondary role compared to charitable and labor-oriented work. Financial resources became more limited and were increasingly directed toward wartime and humanitarian needs, reflecting a shift in priorities.

Thus, by the end of 1942, the Ladies Auxiliary appears as an organization adapted to wartime conditions, in which practices of collective labor, charity, and support for the front predominated, transforming it from a local social association into a component of a broader system of civic mobilization.

1943

Jan. 25, 1943

With a very good attendance at the joint tureen dinner, it was followed by the business meeting of the Aux., Edith Ahlquist, Pres., presiding.

The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Grace Schuler gave her report on the “Boys in Service Comm.” which was approved and discussion followed regarding the Easter Remembrance.

It was decided to send boxes amounting to one dollar.

The Volunteer Committee for the Feb. dinner were:

Dorothy Nelson, Chairman

Mabel Peel

Elsie Culbertson

Some very interesting letters were read from them in service.

A special vote of thanks was given Minnie Sonne for her work in our Red Cross Unit.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Elsie Culbertson, Sec.

Treasurer’s Report — Jan. 25, 1943

Amount in Treasury 24.31
Collection 5.90
Gift — Mrs. Ross McDougall 2.00
Bills Paid 6.98
Balance in Treasury 25.23
Elsie Culbertson, Treas (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 28v-29).

Feb. 22 (1943)

A short business meeting followed the well attended tureen dinner of Auxiliary and Commandery members.

The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord’s Prayer.

Geraldine Mathis presiding in the absence of Edith Ahlquist, Pres.

Reports of Sec. & Treas. were read and approved.

A general discussion was held in regard to the work for our Boys in Service.
A motion was passed to give that Committee full power to act as they saw fit.
Motion was made and carried to continue the dinners.
The Volunteer Committee for March were:
Maude Ross — Chairman
Flora Kilmore
Lottie Conert
The meeting was then adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Culbertson, Sec.

Treasurer's Report — Feb. 22
Amount in Treasury 25.23
Collection 2.70
Full Amount 27.93
Paid to Committee 8.65
Balance in Treasury 19.28
Elsie Culbertson, Treas ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 29v-30](#)).

March 28, 1943
The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer.
Sec. & Treas. reports were given and approved.
Grace Schuler and Edith Ahlquist thanked the Aux. for cards sent to them when they were ill.
A general discussion followed in regard to "Our Men in Service."
The Pres. then appointed
Maude Ross and Geraldine Mathis nominating committee for Sec. & Treas. for the coming year.
The next meeting will be Apr. 26.
There will not be a dinner.
The Aux. being invited to attend the open installation of Commandery having refreshments served later.
The President gave a special thanks to all her committees and the meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Elsie R. Culbertson
Sec. & Treas.

Treasurer's Report — March 28, 1943
Mar. 28 Balance in Treasury 19.28
Collection 3.71
Total 22.99
Bills Paid 12.35
Apr. 26 Balance in Treasury 10.64
Elsie R. Culbertson ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 30v-31](#)).

Apr. 26, 1943
The meeting opened by praying the Lord's Prayer.
Secretary and Treasurer's report given and approved.
Letters read from the boys in service; also thank-you cards from members.
Nominating Committee reported that Cynthia Van Miljen had consented to be Sec. and Treas. for the coming year.
Bertie Keller moved the nominations be closed — seconded by Mable Peel.
A special collection was taken to pay for postage on the boxes sent to servicemen.
This collection amounted to \$2.12.
The new President, Mrs. Mathis, was introduced and took charge of the meeting.
It was decided to have a tureen dinner in May with the following committee:
Edith Ahlquist — Chairman
Bertie Keller
Elsie Culbertson
The following committee was appointed for the Boys in Service:
Edith Ahlquist — Chairman
Georgia Cramer
Carrie Ahlqvist (or Ahlquist)
Isabel Burton

The meeting was adjourned.
Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Treasurer's Report
Balance on hand Apr. 26 10.64
Special Collection 2.12
Gift from Commandery 10.00
Balance on hand May 17 22.76 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 31v-32](#)).

May 17, 1943
Meeting called to order by the President, Mrs. Mathis.
We prayed the Lord's Prayer.
Minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved.
There will be no meeting in June.
The following committee was appointed for a tureen dinner in September:
Cynthia Van Miljen, Maude Ross, and Geraldine Mathis.
The meeting was adjourned.
Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Treasurer's Report
Balance on hand May 17 22.76
Collection 2.72
Total 25.48 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 32v](#)).

September 26, 1943
Meeting was called to order by the President.
We prayed the Lord's Prayer.
Minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved.
It was moved by Maude Peel and seconded by Elsie Culbertson that we send Christmas boxes to the boys overseas — to cost about \$1.60 per box.
Bertie Keller moved we have a white elephant sale at the next meeting to raise money.
Dorothy Nelson seconded the motion — motion carried.
It was suggested that each one bring another member to the next meeting and that we invite the men to the sale.
Quilts were discussed and we are to tie a quilt at the next meeting.
Will have a tureen dinner at the next meeting with the following committee:
Bertie Keller, chairman; Maude Peel, Mrs. Maurer, and Betty Anderson.
The meeting adjourned.
Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Treasurer's Report
Balance on hand Sept. 26 25.48
Collection Sept. 26 2.84
Total 28.32
Boxes for Service Boys Overseas ... 18.00
Balance 10.32 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 33-33v](#)).

October 25, 1943
The meeting was called to order with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.
Minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved.
A report on boxes sent to the boys in service overseas was read by the Secretary in the absence of Mrs. Ahlquist.
It was reported Mrs. Cramer had broken her arm and is in Stuart Hospital.
The "White Elephant" sale was postponed until a later date due to the small meeting this month.
A very pretty quilt was tied at this meeting which is the 10th one we have tied for the Red Cross.
The following committee was appointed for the next tureen dinner:
Mrs. Havel Miller, Chairman; Mrs. Ernest Miller, Velma Edris and Mrs. Yenger.
The meeting was adjourned.
Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Treasurer's Report
 Balance on hand Oct. 25 10.32
 Collection 1.75
 "White Elephant" gift from Mrs. Rose ... 1.00
 Gift from Mrs. Sonne 1.12
 Total 14.19
 Batt (batting) & thread for quilt 1.12
 Balance 13.07 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 34-34v](#)).

November 22, 1943

Meeting was called to order by the President with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.
 Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.
 There will be no December meeting.
 The following committee was appointed for the January dinner:
 Mrs. Mathis, Grace Schuler, Mrs. Flowers.
 The meeting adjourned.
 The remainder of the evening was spent piecing quilt blocks and holding a "White Elephant" sale.
 Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Treasurer's Report
 Balance on hand Nov. 22 13.07
 Refund from overseas boxes 6.80
 Collection Nov. 22 3.65
 White Elephant sale 15.05
 Total 38.57
 For candy & cards for Service Boys ... 14.07
 Balance 24.50 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 35](#)).

Overall, the materials for 1943 demonstrate the consolidation and further development of the trends that had emerged in the previous year under the influence of wartime conditions. The activities of the Ladies Auxiliary acquired a distinctly military-charitable character, with primary attention focused on supporting servicemen and participating in war-related relief efforts.

A central place was occupied by systematic work with the so-called "Boys in Service": the regular sending of packages (including for Easter and Christmas), fundraising to cover mailing costs, reading letters from the front, and maintaining ongoing communication. At the same time, the committee responsible for servicemen's support gained increasing autonomy, indicating the institutionalization of this area within the organization.

In parallel, active labor within the framework of the Red Cross continued—particularly the production of blankets and quilts (by 1943, no fewer than ten had been recorded), underscoring the Auxiliary's contribution to the material support of wartime and humanitarian needs. An important element was also the development of fundraising practices (such as the "white elephant sale"), aimed at sustaining the financial base amid rising expenditures.

While the organization preserved traditional forms of social life—shared dinners, meetings, and the rotation of committees—these were now fully subordinated to mobilizational and charitable objectives. The financial situation remained moderate and somewhat unstable, yet demonstrated resilience through targeted collections and organized events.

Thus, in 1943, the Ladies Auxiliary appears as a stable and war-adapted structure, combining elements of a local community with the role of an important link in civilian support for the front, with a strong emphasis on practical assistance, collective labor, and moral solidarity with servicemen.

1944

Jan. 24, 1944

The meeting was called to order by the President with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.
 Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.
 Letters from several of the Boys in Service were read.
 Meeting adjourned.
 Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Financial Report

Balance on hand Jan. 24 24.50
Collection Jan. 24 3.20
Balance 27.70 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 36](#)).

Feb. 28, 1944

Meeting was called to order by praying the Lord's Prayer.
Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.
The new members were welcomed by the President.
It was decided not to send any Easter boxes to the men in service.
A white elephant sale was discussed. It was moved and carried that we have one at the next meeting.
Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Aubitz thanked the auxiliary for the boxes sent their sons for Christmas.
The following committee was appointed for the Mar. meeting:
Maude Ross, Elsie Culbertson, Beulah Krebs and Cynthia Van Miljen.
Meeting was adjourned.
Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand Mar. 27 27.70 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 36v](#)).

Mar. 27, 1944

Meeting was called to order by praying the Lord's Prayer.
Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.
The President appointed the following nominating committee:
Beulah Krebs, Maude Ross and Mrs. Miller.
It was moved and seconded to send a gift to Mrs. C. Keller, who has been ill in the hospital. The motion carried.
It was moved and seconded to send a dollar gift to any of our members who are in the hospital. The gift to be taken care of by the Secretary. The motion carried.
The following committee was appointed for the April meeting:
Grace Schuler, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Conert, & Mrs. Meach.
The meeting adjourned.
Sec. Cynthia Van Miljen

Treasurer's Notes

Balance on hand 27.70
Collection 5.25
Elephant sale 12.00
Total 44.95
Gift 1.00
Balance 43.95 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 37](#)).

April 24, 1944

The Auxiliary Meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Mathis by repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.
Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.
It was moved & seconded to have a tureen dinner at next meeting with dinner committee selected for last meeting to serve.
The nominating committee, represented by Mrs. Ross, announced the selection of Mrs. John Dinne as President to serve for Mrs. Peabody who will be unable to attend.
Betty Anderson as Sec. & Treas.
No further business, the meeting adjourned.
Ladies were invited to attend the public installation of officers after which lunch was served.
Sec. Betty Anderson

Financial Note

Cash on hand \$43.95 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 37v](#)).

May 15, 1944

The Aux. Meeting was called to order by our new President Mrs. Dinne.

We all joined in repeating the Lord's Prayer.

25 members present.

It was moved & seconded that we have a tureen dinner at the June meeting.

Cynthia Van Miljen, Lottie Conert, Jerry Mathis and Mrs. King volunteered to work on supper committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hutchinson, seconded by Grace Schuler, to finish the quilts that have been pieced during the summer months.

Mrs. Ross donated three quilt tops.

Mrs. Evans donated one quilt top.

Mrs. Dinne extended a vote of thanks for all sewing done.

The meeting adjourned to work on quilt patches.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Anderson

Treasurer's Report

Balance cash on hand 43.95

Collection at May dinner 5.75

1 cushion top sold 0.50

Total \$50.20 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 38](#)).

June 26, 1944

The Auxiliary Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mathis, repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

A motion was made and seconded to extend thanks to Mrs. Evans for the quilt top which she donated.

A motion was made and seconded to have a tureen dinner at the next meeting.

Mrs. Mathis appointed the committee to serve:

Chairman – Cynthia Van Miljen

Members – Velma Edris, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Dunham, Mrs. King

After which the meeting adjourned.

Sec. Betty Anderson

Treasurer's Report

Cash on hand 50.20

Collection from dinner 1.94

Total 52.14 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 38v](#)).

Sept. 25, 1944

The Ladies Aux. Meeting was called by Mrs. Dinne, President, followed by repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Mrs. Culbertson was reported injured and a motion made to send her a card.

A motion was made to send gifts to boys in service overseas before Oct. 15th.

Mrs. Flowers was appointed chairman, assistants Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Edris, Mrs. King, allowing approx. \$1.00 for each gift.

Mrs. Dinne asked each person present to ask 2 members to come to next Aux. meeting in October, also to bring thimble, needles & thread to work on quilts.

The following ladies volunteered to serve on supper committee for next tureen dinner:

Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Marrer, Flora Gilmore.

No further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sec. Betty Anderson

Treasurer's Report

Cash on hand 52.14

Table Collection 4.50

From dinner comm. 2.43

Total 59.07 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 39](#)).

October 23, 1944

The Auxiliary Meeting was called by President Mrs. John Dinne, followed by repeating the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Flowers reported sending Christmas Boxes to boys in service over seas.

Mrs. Mae Blair & Mrs. Stanley Cramer were appointed to send cards, gifts or flowers to sick & convalescent members.

A motion was made and accepted to give the Committee \$5.00 to cover this purpose.

Special thanks was extended to the supper committee by Mrs. Dinne, and the following volunteered to serve Nov. 27th at tureen dinner:

Maud Blair, Dorothy Nelson, Mabel Peel, Georgia Cramer, Mrs. Dinne.

The meeting adjourned and a quilt was tied during the evening.

Sec. Betty Anderson

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand	59.07
Dinner Collection	3.96
Total	63.03
Overseas Christmas Boxes	19.47
Paid out for cards & gifts	5.00
Total expenses	24.47
Balance	38.56 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 39v-40).

November 27, 1944

Ladies Aux. Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Dinne, Pres.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

A card of acknowledgment was read from Bertie Keller, also Jerry Mathis.

Mrs. Ross suggested sending a card of thanks to all persons donating from Mrs. Harriet Wallace & Mrs. King Logan.

19 names of boys in service in this country.

A motion was made and seconded to pay all bills submitted.

A vote of thanks was extended to supper comm.

The next supper comm. for Jan. 22 were Cynthia VerMilga, Grace Schuler, Georgia Cramer, Florence Flowers, Alice Yeager.

Treas. report

Balance Cash	\$38.56
Dinner Collection	6.20
Total	\$44.76
Paid out for flowers	\$4.00
Additional Doxologies	3.51
Mabelle Bairshaw for candy	13.30
Postage labels, cakes & ribbon ...	4.50
Muslin, Batts, thread for quilts ..	2.44
Total	\$27.75
Bal. cash	\$17.01 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 40v-41).

Overall, the materials for 1944 reflect a gradual transition in the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary from intensive wartime mobilization to a more balanced model combining support for servicemen with care for the internal community and the maintenance of traditional forms of club life.

On the one hand, participation in wartime initiatives continued: the sending of gifts and Christmas packages to the "boys in service," correspondence, and recorded expressions of gratitude from servicemen and their families. However, compared to 1942-1943, there is a noticeable decline in the intensity of these activities (for example, the decision to discontinue sending Easter packages), which may indicate either a strain on resources or a partial stabilization of assistance practices.

On the other hand, the internal social function of the organization became more pronounced. The Auxiliary actively responded to the needs of its own members: decisions were made to support ill participants, to send gifts and cards, and to establish regular practices of mutual aid. This points to the strengthening of horizontal ties and the transformation of the organization into a space of local solidarity.

Labor and charitable activities continued to play a significant role—above all sewing and assembling quilts—which remained an important component of both practical and symbolic work. At the same time, fundraising practices (collections, sales, dinners) were maintained, ensuring financial stability, although the balance of funds noticeably declined toward the end of the year due to increased expenditures on gifts, materials, and assistance.

Organizationally, 1944 was marked by stability: regular elections were held, leadership changed, committees were formed, member participation was maintained, and efforts were made to expand involvement.

Thus, in 1944, the Ladies Auxiliary appears as a mature and adaptive structure in which wartime charity was gradually supplemented—and partially replaced—by tasks of internal support, community preservation, and the maintenance of stable forms of collective activity in the final stage of the war period.

1945

Jan 22, 1945

The Ladies Aux. Meeting was called by Mrs. Confe Pres.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison after which the minutes of previous meeting was read and approved.

A card was read from Mrs. C_____ also thank you letters has been read from several boys in service for candy, punch, Christmas treats.

A motion was made and accepted to send Easter cards and box in March service.

Mrs. Schofung offered to pay postage.

Comm. appointed for trip.

Mrs. Dennie in making two flowers (?)

Thanks was extended to the supper Comm. for this evening.

Volunteers for next meeting were Mrs. Cones, Mrs. M_____, Flora Coleman and Mrs. P_____

No further business, the meeting adjourned.

Rec. Betty Anderson

Treasurer Report

Jan 22

Bal cash on hand 17.01

Supper Collection 3.71

Total \$20.72 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 41v-42).

Feb. 26, 1945

The Ladies Aux. Meeting was called by President Mrs. Coleman.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The minutes of last meeting were read & approved.

Thank you letters from boys in the service were read acknowledging candy sent at Christmas time.

Mrs. Termulyer reported that cards were ready to be sent to the boys for Easter.

Thanks were given to the supper committee for their services.

Volunteers for the next supper were Dorothy Nelson, Alice Bean, Lucy Miller & Cynthia Termulyer.

The meeting adjourned.

Rec. Betty Anderson

By Mrs. Coleman

Treas Report Feb 26, 1945

Bal Cash 20.72

Supper Collection 3.10

Total 23.82

Paid out for cards \$2.90

Bal. \$20.92 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 42v-43).

March 26, 1945

The Ladies Aux Meeting was called by Pres. Mrs. Cosmo.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The mins. of last meeting were read and approved.

With no new business to transact the time was spent in visiting and reviewing the quilt project.

The finished quilt on display (top & back) was furnished by Mrs. Evans.

Mrs. Johnson furnished the Batts.

This leaves a total of 5 unfinished quilt tops to be made.

The Nominating Committee for the next meeting were Cynthia Vermilyea, Maud Blair and Mrs. Owens.

The card & flower Comm. were asked to send an Easter Card to Bertie Keller.

Motion was made & 2nd to adjourn.

Rec. Betty Anderson

Treas. Report March 26, 1945
Bal. Cash \$20.92
Supper Collection 2.45
Total \$23.37 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 43v-44](#)).

April 23, 1945

The Ladies Aux. Meeting was opened by Mrs. Cosmo, President.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated.

A letter of thanks was read from Mrs. Mendel acknowledging Easter cards.

The Nominating Comm. Reported their selection of Georgia Craner as Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Florence Totten (?) automatically becomes President.

Cynthia Vermilyea, Vice President.

Motion was made & seconded to have a dinner meeting May 21st appointing the following comm.:

Edith Alstock, chairman

Beulah Krebs,

Arletta Owens,

Vergie Kettenkamp.

No further business, the meeting adjourned.

Rec. Betty Anderson

Report of Treas. April 23, 1945

Bal. cash on hand \$23.37

Betty Anderson ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 44v-45](#)).

May 21, 1945

There was meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the new President Mrs. Florence Totten.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

Roll call showed two absent.

Mrs. Owens told of seeing a letter from William Farnsworth.

Mrs. Johnson was appointed by thanks committee to put the quilt on display.

A quilt was then offered to be raffled.

Mrs. Dorson as chairman and Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Maurice as assistants.

Mrs. Vermilyea was appointed as Card Chairman.

The Comm. for the dinner meeting in Sept. consisted of Mrs. Krebs, Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Mead.

A motion was made to have two prizes during the summer. One at the June card party and one at the August.

Motion carried.

No further business, a motion was made to adjourn.

Rec. Georgia Craner

Treas. Report May 21, 1945

Bal. cash on hand \$23.37

Supper collection 1.90

Sale of food 0.65

Total \$25.92

Georgia Craner ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 45v-46](#)).

A picnic was held June 18th at the Wilson cottage with Mrs. Gilmore as hostess.

A wonderful dinner was enjoyed by 22 members.

Bingo was played in the evening.

A vote of thanks for her hospitality was given Mrs. Gilmore.

Collection from Bingo amounted to \$14.44

Cream & coffee 0.88

Ice cream 1.40

Balance 12.16

Rec'd from Mrs. Miller 1.00

13.16

25.92 Bal. Treas.

Total 39.08 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 46v](#)).

Sept. 24, 1945

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by Mrs. Cosmo in the absence of the Pres. Mrs. Flowers.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The secretary and treas. Report was accepted as read.

Mrs. Cosmo thanked the supper committee.

Comm. appointed for Oct. 15:

Mrs. Lucy Miller, Elsie Culbertson, Maud Ross, Flora Gilmore.

A motion was made by Lottie Everett and seconded by Maud Ross to send a gift to the new Flower Baby.

Discussion followed for a larger attendance.

Each one was asked to bring one or two more.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. McNulty to send boxes to boys overseas but to send a card in Nov.

Comm.: Mrs. Bean, Rickerson & Evans.

Meeting adjourned.

Grace Schuler, Acting Sec'y

Report of Treas. (Oct. 24)

Bal. cash on hand \$39.08

Supper coll. 2.25

Total \$41.33

Gift for Flower Baby 2.98

Bal. \$38.35

Oct. 22 – 1945

Bal. cash on hand \$38.35

Supper coll. 2.60

Deficit 1.40

Bal. 1.20

Total \$39.55 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 47-47v](#)).

Oct. 29, 1945

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by Mrs. D.P. Miller.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The secretary and treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The committee reported a card party to send cards overseas in the coming month by Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Rickerson and Mrs. Evans.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to have a rummage sale at Mrs. Hughes' home on the 7th of Nov. (Betty Anderson to assist). Motion was seconded.

Mrs. Mansell was appointed chairman for the rummage sale.

No further business, meeting adjourned.

Grace Schuler, Acting Secretary ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 48](#))

Nov. 26

Bal. in Treas. \$39.55.

November 26, 1945

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Flowers.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The secretary and treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The comm. appointed to serve at this meeting was asked to serve in Jan.

We were treated to a wonderful turkey dinner by the Commandery.

Mr. Ross had planned the dinner then was taken sick so Mrs. Ross carried out his plans very well.

A very large crowd enjoyed the dinner.

Mrs. Bean's father died and a card of sympathy was sent to her.

As no other business was brought up the meeting adjourned.

Georgia Craner, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 48v-49](#)).

Overall, the materials for 1945 reflect a transitional stage in the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary, associated with the end of World War II and a gradual reduction in mobilization efforts. Unlike previous

years, wartime themes remained present but no longer dominated: assistance to the “boys in service” continued (sending cards and packages, reading letters of appreciation), but became less intensive and more episodic in nature.

At the same time, there was a clear return to prewar forms of social and club activity. The minutes show an increased share of events focused on the internal life of the community: picnics, bingo, dinners, card parties, raffles, as well as the organization of rummage sales. These activities not only fulfilled a recreational function but also served as a source of financial support.

Charitable work also continued, though its focus shifted from external (wartime) assistance to local concerns: supporting members of the organization, sending cards and gifts, and participating in social gestures such as congratulations, condolences, and aid to families. At the same time, traditional labor activities—especially quilt work—remained an important element of collective identity.

Organizationally, 1945 was characterized by stability and normalization: regular elections were held, leadership transitioned smoothly, committee activity was maintained, and member engagement remained strong. The financial situation remained moderately stable, with gradual growth supported by events and collections.

Thus, 1945 can be characterized as a period of demobilization and adaptation: the Ladies Auxiliary gradually transitioned from wartime charity to a peacetime model of operation, combining elements of social support, recreational activity, and the preservation of internal community cohesion.

1946

Jan. 28, 1946

Bal. in Treas.	\$39.55
Collection	2.96
Total	42.51
Pd. for pies	2.00
Bal.	40.51

Jan. 28, 1946

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Flowers.

The Lord’s Prayer was repeated in unison.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with the exception of Mrs. Ross having the credit for the dinner in Nov.

She reported she didn’t want any credit.

The Comm. for Feb. is Florence Flowers, Lucy Miller, Mrs. Bean and Mrs. Culbertson.

Mrs. Cosmo talked about the quilts.

Mrs. Miller made a motion that all the ladies who could come Wed & Thurs Jan. 30 & 31st to finish the quilts.

Mrs. Vermilyea made a motion to send the quilts to hospital at Butler. Two quilts to the Clothing drive. Mrs. Swingle gave the back for the quilts.

Fannie Lypner was reported sick and a card was signed by all and sent to her.

Mrs. Demp made the motion to adjourn.

Sec’y Georgia Craner ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 49v-50](#)).

Feb. 25, 1946

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the Pres. Florence Flowers.

The Lord’s Prayer was repeated in unison.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The report of the quilt comm. Was given. Mrs. Cosmo reported two more quilts were finished.

All ladies were invited to quilting party Mar. 6th.

Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to send one of the quilts to a Rudolph family whose home was burned recently.

Mrs. Evans offered to give one quilt top to the Auxiliary.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cosmo to remember the boys of Commandery members who are in hospitals at Easter time.

Dinner Com. for March: Mrs. Owens, chairman, Mrs. King, Maude Peel, Georgia Craner.

Nominating Comm. was appointed consisting of Mrs. Brandmyer, Cosmo, Mrs. Gilmore.

Meeting adjourned.

Georgia Craner, Sec’y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 51](#)).

Mar. 25 (1946) – Treasurer Notes

Bal.	\$40.51
Supper coll.	3.75
Total	44.26
Pd. for ice cream	2.10
Bal.	42.16
Donation from Warren Commandery	10.00
Total	52.16
Check mistake	0.05
Bal.	52.11

Mar. 25, 1946

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the Pres. Florence Flowers.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Pres. thanked the dinner comm. and greeted the members, especially those who hadn't attended in some time.

Mrs. Blair gave the report of the nominating comm. She reported the selection of Grace Schuler as Sec. and Treas. for the ensuing year.

Cynthia Vermilyea automatically becomes Pres. It was decided to ask Mrs. Eddy to be Vice Pres.

There will be public installation in April, so there will be no dummy meeting.

No further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sec. Georgia Craner ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 51v-52](#)).

April 22 (1946 – note)

The Ladies Auxiliary met, invited to installation of Warren Commandery Knights Templar.

It was enjoyed very much.

Our Pres. made a little speech concerning the Aux., which explained our work.

Refreshments were served.

Sec. Georgia Craner ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 51v](#)).

May 20, 1946 – Treasurer Report

Bal.	\$52.11
Supper Coll.	4.50
Total	56.61
Mrs. Sonnes for materials for quilts	6.67
Pd. for pies	4.50
Check mistake	0.05
Total Expenses	11.22
Receipts	56.61
Expenses	11.22
Balance	\$45.39

May 20, 1946

The regular meeting was called to order by the President Cynthia Vermilyea. Club flag salute followed by Prayer.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

A letter of thanks was read from Chest Springs Ladies Auxiliary expressed their thanks for the lovely quilt and a donation of money. The president also read a note from the hospital concerning the gift.

Mrs. Thompson was named chairman for the rummage sale to be held June 17, 1946. Mrs. Blair was elected treasurer.

Thanks were given to Mrs. Evans, Elsie for her splendid gifts of two quilts which made the drive a big success.

The first home to be cared for will be a family whose home burned. The president appointed a committee to see Mrs. Howell and decide what was needed.

No further business carried.

Meeting adjourned.

The dinner committee for May

consists of Mrs. Vermilyea, Mrs. Francis Blair,

Mrs. Bean and Mrs. Sonnes.

The meeting adjourned.
Grace Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 52v-53v](#)).

June 24, 1946 – Treasurer Report
Bal. \$45.39
Supper Coll. 12.36
Total 57.75
Mrs. Flowers for
candy for soldiers 1.18
Balance \$56.57

June 24, 1946

The regular meeting of Ladies Auxiliary of Knights Templar was held in the social rooms of the Masonic Temple.

Previous to the meeting a turkey dinner was served to a hundred six Knights, ladies and guests with Mrs. Florence Flowers, Mrs. Alice Bean, Mrs. Minnie Sonnes, and Mrs. Francis Blair as dinner committee.

Meeting was opened by the President Cynthia Vermilyea by repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

A motion was made by Worthy Yelton and seconded by Helen Braunschweiger that Mrs. Lena Schaefer be elected Vice President for the coming year. This was carried.

A bill of \$1.18 was presented by Mrs. Florence Flowers for candy sent to the soldiers boys in the hospital.

The dinner committee for September consists of Mrs. Betty Anderson, Mrs. Charlotte Carter, Mrs. Helen Braunschweiger, Mrs. Flora Filmore and Mrs. Bertha Neal.

The meeting adjourned.

Grace Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 54-54v](#)).

September 23, 1946 – Treasurer Report
Bal. \$56.57
Supper Coll. 5.25
Total \$61.82
Ice cream 4.05
Cakes 1.20
Total expenses 5.25
Balance \$56.57

September 23, 1946 – Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened with praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A bill for \$2.70 for 3 bolts for quilts for Mrs. Sonnes was presented.

The collection of \$5.25 paid for the dessert.

It was moved and seconded that we have a turkey dinner in October.

The committee appointed for October are Mrs. B. Sacks, Chairman, Mrs. Lucy Findley, and Mrs. J. Mead.

Two quilts were given to the Confer family.

Meeting adjourned.

Grace Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 55-55v](#)).

October 28, 1946 – Treasurer Report
Bal. \$56.57
Supper Coll. 4.09
Total \$60.66
Dessert 4.09
Balance \$56.57

October 28, 1946 – Meeting Minutes

The Auxiliary meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Vermilyea, by repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Minutes and the Treasurer's report were read and approved.

A discussion followed about who to give our finished quilts to. The President offered to investigate the needs of the Wilkins family.

A motion was made and seconded to have a turkey dinner in November.

Mrs. Vermilyea appointed the following committee:

Mrs. L. Craner, Chairman
Mrs. F. Blair
Mrs. L. King
Mrs. Eddy
Mrs. B. Wood

A motion was made by Mrs. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Anderson that we send our boys in service a gift for Christmas. The motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned.

Grace W. Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 56-56v](#)).

November 25, 1946 — Treasurer Report

Bal.	\$56.57
Coll.	4.52
Total	\$61.09
Quilt materials	6.38
Check Master	0.05
Dessert	4.52
Total expenses	\$10.95
Balance	\$50.14

November 25, 1946 — Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the President, Mrs. Vermilyea.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sonner and seconded by Mrs. Hutchins that the bills be paid. This was carried.

Mrs. Miller thanked the Ladies for the card and handkerchief that she received when in the hospital.

Mrs. Vermilyea reported that the Wilkins family had received enough quilts and the Waite family on Coffin Hill had been given a large and a small quilt.

She then said the Erickson family had been burned out and was very deserving.

A motion was made by Mrs. Evans and seconded by Mrs. Covert that we give the Erickson family two quilts. This was carried.

Some of the members asked if the Auxiliary could use finished quilts or materials for quilts. The President said we would always be glad to accept quilts or materials as there always seemed to be a great need.

Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Templeton each offered a quilt. Mrs. Cogswell said that she would give two single quilt tops.

Neil Simonson, Hulda Jacobson's son, seemed to be the only boy in service this Christmas.

A motion was made by Mrs. Owens and seconded by Mrs. Evans that Mrs. Vermilyea and Mrs. Frebe send Neil a Christmas box. This was carried.

Our next regular meeting coming so near Christmas, we will not have a meeting until January.

The following will serve for the January Committee:

Mrs. Evans (Chairman)
Mrs. Ross
Mrs. Schwing
Mrs. Wood
Mrs. Schuler

The finances were discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

Grace W. Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 57-58](#)).

Overall, the materials for 1946 demonstrate the final consolidation of the postwar model of the Ladies Auxiliary's functioning, in which priorities shifted from wartime mobilization to local charity and internal social activity.

Wartime themes receded into the background: assistance to servicemen continued only episodically (for example, occasional gifts or Christmas packages), reflecting the end of the war and the reduction in the number of recipients. Instead, primary attention was directed toward supporting the local community. The Auxiliary actively participated in assisting families affected by fires, supporting ill members, and cooperating with hospitals and other auxiliaries through the distribution of quilts and donations.

A central direction of activity became the production and distribution of quilts, which assumed a systematic character. Quilts functioned as a universal resource of assistance—they were sent to hospitals,

given to needy families, and used in charitable initiatives and exchanges with other organizations. This indicates the transformation of a formerly wartime practice (in the spirit of Red Cross work) into a stable form of peacetime charity.

The organization's social life was also maintained and developed: regular dinners (including large-scale events with over 100 participants), meetings, sales, and joint activities. These forms fulfilled both integrative and financial functions, ensuring budget stability.

Organizationally, 1946 was characterized by stability and institutional maturity: regular leadership rotation, active committee work, expanded member participation, and coordination with external structures (the Commandery, other auxiliaries, and hospitals). The financial situation remained relatively stable despite ongoing charitable expenditures.

Thus, 1946 can be regarded as the stage of the final transformation of the Ladies Auxiliary in peacetime: the organization became a stable local charitable and social institution, oriented toward community support, the development of internal ties, and the continuation of traditions of collective mutual aid.

1947

Jan. 27, 1947 — Treasurer Report

Bal.	\$50.14
Coll.	6.35
Total	\$56.49
Christmas box for Neil Simonson	\$2.95
Gift for A. E. Johnson	\$1.50
Dessert	\$0.50
Total expenses	\$4.95
Balance	
Cash	\$1.40
Checking Acct.	\$50.14
Total	\$51.54

Jan. 27, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President by the repeating of the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Discussion was held about the turkey dinner.

It was decided that it would be held again this year, but at a later date.

The bills were read and allowed.

Mrs. A. E. Johnson was reported ill and a card was sent to her.

The following committee was appointed for the dinner:

Mrs. Evans

Mrs. Ross

Mrs. Schwing

Mrs. Wood

Mrs. Schuler

The meeting adjourned ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 58v-59](#)).

Feb. 24, 1947 — Treasurer Report

Bal.	\$51.54
Coll.	6.50
Total	\$58.04
Gift to Mrs. Schwing	\$1.00
Dessert	\$4.50
Total expenses	\$5.50
Balance	
Cash	\$2.40
Checking Acct.	\$50.14
Total	\$52.54

Feb. 24, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

Regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of Knights Templar was held in the Masonic social rooms.

Meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Allen Vermilyea, by repeating the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary's minutes and the Treasurer's report of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Sonner, chairman of the quilt committee, reported that:

Mrs. Schwing had given money for a quilt lining

Mrs. Cogswell had given the Auxiliary two quilt tops
Mrs. Charles Blair and Mrs. Nellie Schwing were reported ill.
The following volunteered to serve the dinner in March:

Mrs. Dorothy Yelous
Mrs. William Hunter
Mrs. Helen Schuler
Mrs. Cynthia Vermilyea

The President appointed the nominating committee consisting of:

Mrs. Maude Ross
Mrs. Georgia Cramer
Mrs. Freda King

A motion was made by Mrs. Cogswell and seconded by Mrs. Jarrett that we have a "White Elephant sale" at our March meeting.

The motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Grace W. Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 59v-60](#)).

March 24, 1947 — Treasurer Report

Bal.	\$52.54
Coll.	7.45
Gift from Commandery	10.00
White Elephant sale	28.20
Total	\$98.19
Dessert	\$8.15
Balance	
Cash	\$11.70
Checking Acct.	\$78.34
Total	\$90.04

March 24, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the President, Mrs. Vermilyea.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in unison.

The Secretary's minutes and the Treasurer's report of the last meeting were read.

The President reported that Mrs. Hutchins and Betty Anderson had given the Auxiliary linings for quilts.

Letters of thanks were read from Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Schwing.

Mrs. Vermilyea expressed her appreciation and thanks to the members for their splendid cooperation and support during the past year.

Mrs. Covert moved that we give the President a vote of thanks.

Seconded by Mrs. Cramer. Motion carried.

Mrs. Apenbank and Mrs. Erickson were guests at the meeting.

Mrs. Erickson gave some remarks.

Mrs. Cramer reported for the nominating committee as follows:

Lena Schaeffer — President
Margaret Glee — Vice President
Genevieve Elford — Secretary-Treasurer
They were duly elected.

The following volunteered to serve on the dinner committee in April:

Elizabeth Templeton

Margaret Glee

Myrtle Barker

Zeta King

Alice Yeager

Helen Kilson was reported ill and in the hospital.

The meeting adjourned.

Later in the evening the men joined the ladies for a White Elephant sale, from which \$28.20 was cleared.

Grace W. Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 60v-61v](#)).

April 28, 1947 — Treasurer Report

Bal.	\$90.04
Coll.	6.81

Total \$96.85
Dessert \$7.31
Bank charge 0.20
Total expenses \$7.51
Balance \$89.34.

April 28, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Vermilyea, who led the members in the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary's minutes and the Treasurer's report of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Sonne and Mrs. Whitehill were reported ill.

Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Schaeffer thanked the Auxiliary for the remembrance when they were ill.

The Commandery offered to furnish meat, potatoes, and dessert for the turkey dinner in May.

The Auxiliary was asked by the Commandery to make 6 robes and hats.

After a brief discussion:

Mrs. Templeton offered to see about the cutting

Mrs. Covert offered to make the hats

The ladies would meet at Mrs. Vermilyea's home to make the robes.

Mrs. Nelson reported that quilt tops had been given to her for the Auxiliary.

The following volunteered to serve the dinner in May:

Mrs. Thomas Blair

Mrs. Covert

Mrs. Peel

Mrs. Wood Owens

The meeting adjourned.

Grace W. Schuler, Sec'y ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 62-63](#)).

May 26, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Women's Auxiliary was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lena Schaeffer.

Mrs. Sonne thanked the group for the box of candy given her when ill.

The President announced that:

all the caps for the men were made by Mrs. Covert

the gowns were cut and made by Mrs. Ann Herdendorf

They were thanked for their generous work.

Mrs. Schaeffer introduced the following program, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone:

Miss Dorothy Engstrom played several pieces on the accordion

Mrs. Alice Yeager sang the following selections:

Yesterday

Today

Where My Caravan Has Rested

Wind Song

Next, Mr. G. Carrol showed a movie entitled:

"All People Church"

The following were appointed by Mrs. Schaeffer to serve on the refreshment committee:

Mrs. Velma Blain

Mrs. Veda [The surname is not fully legible]

Mrs. Hartfield

Mrs. Barclay

Mrs. Covert

The committee on June dinner was:

Mrs. Bane

Mrs. Groves

Mrs. Templeton

Mrs. Blair

The meeting adjourned.

Financial Note

Bank Balance: \$89.34 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 63v-64](#)).

June 23, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

The President, Mrs. Lena Schaeffer, called to order the meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary and opened the meeting by all praying the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary and Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Mrs. Sonne reported that:

one large and two small quilts were ready to be given away

The by-laws were read by the President.

The following were announced as directors in rotation to their term of office:

Cynthia Vermilyea

Mrs. Florence Flowers

Mrs. Minnie Sonne

Mrs. Schaeffer read some of the minutes from when the Auxiliary first started in 1938.

Mrs. Sonne told of some of her experiences in the Auxiliary in past years.

Mrs. Flowers gave a short talk about their trip to Allentown, where she and Mr. Flowers attended the Grand Conclave.

A motion was made by Georgia Gramer and seconded by Mrs. Nellie Irving to pay for the dessert.

A turkey dinner was planned for the next meeting in September with the following committee:

Mrs. Dorothy Nelson

Mrs. Flora Gilmore

Mrs. Minnie Sonne

The meeting was then adjourned.

Arleta Owens (Sec. pro tem)

Financial Record

Bank Balance \$88.04

Collection (June 23) 5.45

Total \$93.49

Expenses:

Dessert \$4.35

Brocker Creamery \$5.45

(including bank charge)

Total expenses \$9.80

Remaining \$83.69

Cash in hand \$1.10

Bank Balance \$82.59 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 64v-65](#)).

September 22, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

The President, Mrs. Lena Schaeffer, called to order the meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary and opened the meeting by leading the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.

A motion was made and seconded that the following bills be paid:

Prize \$3.85

Label

Handkerchiefs \$1.90

Quilts were given to:

Mrs. Alice Yeager

Vera Wood at the time of their illness.

New Business

The President appointed the directors and:

Mrs. Covet

Mrs. Armstrong as an acting committee to consider what could be done about the appearance of the social room.

A discussion followed, bringing to attention the poor condition of the room and many suggestions were made as to how it might be improved.

Follow-up Motion

A motion was made by Mrs. Armstrong and seconded by Mrs. Cramer that a letter be sent to:

Mr. Flowers the directors of the Temple Association expressing the Auxiliary's opinion about the social room and asking if something could be done to remedy the situation.

A thank-you card from Mrs. Alice Yeager was read.

The following were appointed to serve on the refreshment committee for October:

Mrs. Georgia Cramer

Mrs. Covet

Mrs. Blair

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Wood, Sec.

Financial Record

Balance brought forward (June)	\$82.59
Collection (Sept. meeting)	3.49
Total	\$86.08
Expenses:	
Prize	\$3.85
Handkerchiefs	1.90
(Bank charge / check fee)	0.05
Total expenses	\$5.80
Remaining balance	\$80.28 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 65v-66).

October 27, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lena Schaeffer, by praying the Lord's Prayer.

The President welcomed Mrs. Martin, a guest from Meadville.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

There were no reports from committees or unfinished business.

Elsie Culbertson was appointed by the President to send cards to sick members.

Motions and Appointments

A motion was made by Mrs. Covet that we just send cards to any ill members; seconded by Mrs. Schwing — carried.

Miss Colley and Miss Brown will be program chairmen for the next meeting.

Those volunteering for the refreshment committee in November:

Dorothy Nelson

Hazel Chestnut

Elsie Culbertson

Beulah (The surname is not fully legible)

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Schwing and seconded by Mrs. Blair.

Program

Margaret Slev(e) (Sleve / Sleeve) in charge of the program presented

Mrs. Archie Hunter, who showed several reels of film that were greatly enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Wood, Sec.

Financial Record (Oct. 27, 1947)

Balance	\$80.64
Collection	\$5.50
Total	\$86.14
Expenses:	
Pies	\$5.50
Balances	
Bank balance	\$80.64
Cash on hand	\$0.74
Total balance	\$81.38 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 66v-67).

November 25, 1947 — Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lena Schaeffer, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, called the meeting to order by having roll call and praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

A correction was made to the previous report by adding Beulah Krebs to the refreshment committee.

Reports and Correspondence

Elsie Culbertson gave a report of cards sent to:

Helen Gilson

Grace Schuler

the Machin family

Mr. & Mrs. Kinconder

Mrs. Vera Wood thanked the group for the card sent to her while she was ill.

Committee Appointments

Miss Anne Brown and Miss Adelaide Colley will serve again on the entertainment committee in January 1948.

The President appointed the following to the refreshment committee for January:

Mrs. Barnes (or Barris)
 Vera Wood
 Arleta King
 Mrs. Yeager
 Charitable Discussion

Mrs. Schaeffer spoke about her experiences in her work and gave several examples of families in great need and how they are being helped.

A motion was made by Mrs. Elsie Culbertson:

to give Mrs. Schaeffer \$25.00 to be used for needy families as she thinks best.

Seconded by Mrs. Cramer —
 carried unanimously.

Additional Suggestion

It was suggested that:

tops (quilt tops)

wrapped packages

be brought to the Temple the first week in December for Mrs. Schaeffer to distribute in her work.

A motion to adjourn was made by Beulah Krebs, seconded by Vera Wood.

Genevieve Wood, Sec.-Treas.

Financial Record (Nov. 25, 1947)

Balance	\$81.38
Collection	\$6.73
Total	\$88.11
Expenses:	
Dessert	\$6.35
Given to Mrs. Schaeffer	\$25.00
Bank charge	\$0.05
Total expenses	\$31.40
Remaining Balance	
Total	\$56.71
Cash	\$1.12
Checking account	\$55.59 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 67v-68v).

Overall, the materials for 1947 reflect the final formation of a stable peacetime model of activity for the Ladies Auxiliary, characterized by institutional maturity, financial stability, and an expanded range of social engagement.

First and foremost, a strengthening of the organization’s financial position is evident. Over the course of the year, there was a significant increase in funds, particularly due to successful fundraising events (such as the “white elephant sale”) and support from the Commandery. This enabled the Auxiliary not only to cover current expenses but also to undertake more substantial charitable initiatives.

Charitable work continued to occupy a central place, though its character definitively shifted toward the local community. Assistance was provided to ill members and needy families, as well as through the delegation of funds (for example, the allocation of a significant sum at the discretion of the president for distribution among those in need). The practice of producing and distributing quilts retained its importance, serving as a universal instrument of social support.

At the same time, the organizational and public dimensions were strengthened. The Auxiliary actively participated in the life of the Commandery (for example, the production of regalia), organized cultural programs (music, films, performances), addressed issues related to infrastructure (the condition of premises), and demonstrated an interest in its own history and traditions (including reference to the minutes of 1938).

A defining feature was the development of internal solidarity: the systematic sending of cards, tokens of attention, and support for members in cases of illness or hardship. This indicates the transformation of the organization into a cohesive social community with strong horizontal ties.

Thus, 1947 can be regarded as a stage of consolidation: the Ladies Auxiliary firmly established itself as a stable, financially secure, and socially active institution, combining charitable work, cultural activity, and support for the local community, while maintaining continuity with the traditions formed during the wartime years.

1948

January 26, 1948 — Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lena Schaeffer, and opened by all praying the Lord’s Prayer.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Reports

Mrs. Elsie Culbertson reported:

a thank-you note received from Mrs. Harold Flowers (Jr.) of Denver at the death of her father; a card was sent to Mr. Berry in the hospital, recovering from an operation; it was also reported that Helen Gilson was ill.

Charitable Activity

Cynthia Vermilyea reported that:

two quilts were given to the Peterson family in Russell, whose home had burned.

It was also brought to attention by Mrs. Culbertson that:

the Tring family was in a similar situation and needed clothing.

Discussion

A discussion followed concerning:

setting aside a day for tying comforts (quilts),

to be announced later,

with all members encouraged to attend and assist.

Committee Appointments

The following committee was announced to serve at the February meeting:

Margaret Sleeve

Mrs. Burke

Owens

Genevieve Wood

Plans were discussed for the March meeting, with further details to be announced later.

The meeting was adjourned.

Miss Colley and Miss Brown had charge of the program following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Wood, Sec.

Financial Record

Bank Balance \$55.59

Income:

Collection \$7.00

Sold cream & pie \$0.95

Total income \$7.95

Expenses:

Expense for pie \$4.95

Balances

Cash on hand \$3.00

From previous \$1.12

Total cash \$4.12

Total assets (approx.) \$59.71 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 69-69v](#)).

March 22, 1948 — Minutes

A large number were in attendance at the dinner served in the banquet hall of the Masonic Temple for all Sir Knights and their ladies.

Following the dinner, the Ladies' Auxiliary gathered in the club room and all members were greeted by the President, Mrs. Lena Schaeffer.

A special greeting was given to Mrs. George M. West, wife of the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Schaeffer thanked the ladies who helped serve the dinner. She also announced a turkey dinner to be held at the Temple on April 16.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was then called to order and all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Mrs. Helen Gilson thanked the Auxiliary for the card sent to her during her illness.

It was noted that there had been no meeting in February due to redecorating in the Temple rooms.

Nominating Committee

Mrs. Schaeffer chose the nominating committee (by telephone):

Mrs. Helen Braunschweiger (chairman)

Mrs. Cynthia Ver Millya

Mrs. William Covert

to select officers for the coming year.

Elections

The following slate was presented:

Mrs. Les Gleese — President

Mrs. Ralph Owens — Vice President

Mrs. Frank A. Wood — Secretary-Treasurer

There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was accepted.

Temple & Infrastructure

It was suggested that a letter be written to the directors of the Temple Association regarding:
new decorating
furniture

Charitable Work

Mrs. Schaeffer reported on:

clothing, toys, etc., donated by Auxiliary members

items distributed to needy families at Christmas

She cited cases from her work, including:

the need for clothing for a 16-year-old girl

Mrs. Lucy Miller suggested organizing a collection to provide clothing for this girl.

The group agreed, and \$11.69 was collected.

Closing

Before adjournment, Mrs. West thanked the Auxiliary for a very pleasant evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. F. G. Wood, Sec.-Treas.

Financial Notes

Bank balance (March 22): \$55.59

Check received from Mr. Ross: \$10.00

New total: \$65.59

Cash on hand: \$4.12 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 70-71](#)).

April 26, 1948 — Minutes

The President, Mrs. Margaret Gleese, called the meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary to order and opened with the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report were read by the Secretary.

Membership & Notices

Mrs. Gleese welcomed the following members:

Mrs. Ernest Johnson

Mrs. Mel Kiehl

Mrs. Perry

Mrs. Geraldine Mathis

Mrs. Vance Ross

Purpose of the Auxiliary

Mrs. Gleese reviewed:

the purpose and functioning of the Auxiliary

She announced that:

all ladies who could would help serve refreshments at the Temple after the church service

Upcoming Events

The President announced:

the next meeting and turkey dinner would be held on May 17

Volunteers to serve:

Mrs. Lehand (or Lehand/Lehant)

Mrs. Vera Word

Mrs. Helen Gilson

Care & Support

A greeting card was signed by members for:

Mrs. Armstrong, who was ill in the hospital

Closing & Program

The meeting was adjourned.

Afterward, Mrs. Yeager gave a report on her trip to the Grand Lodge in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Genevieve Wood, Sec.

Financial Record (April 26, 1948)

Bank Balance	\$65.59
Income:	
Collection	\$9.06
Bill for pies	\$5.50
Expenses:	
Balance/expense	\$3.56
Cash	
Cash on hand	\$4.12
Total (cash + bank adjustment)	\$7.68 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 71v-72).

May 24, 1948 — Minutes

The President, Mrs. Margaret Gleese, called the meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary to order and opened with the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report were read by the Secretary.

Acknowledgments & Events

Mrs. Gleese thanked all those who:

served the church

assisted guests from Erie on Sunday night

after the concert held at the First Presbyterian Church

Reports

A report was given by Mrs. Faat concerning the draperies for the social room

By-Laws

A review of the by-laws of the Auxiliary:

was read by the President

Thanks to Committees

The President thanked the committee who served the turkey dinner:

Vera Word

Helen Gilson

Marian Hunter

Past President Statement

Mrs. Lena Schaeffer, Past President:

expressed her appreciation for the help and cooperation of members during her term

Presentation

A gift was presented by Mrs. Owens:

from the Auxiliary

to the new bride Mrs. Adelaide Currie

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Word (Sec.-Treas.)

Financial Record (May 24, 1948)

Bank Balance	\$65.59
Income:	
Collection	\$7.17
Expenses:	
Bills for pies	\$5.50
Card table	\$3.95
Total expenses	\$9.45
Cash Position	
Cash on hand	\$7.68
Total	\$14.85
Less expenses	\$9.45
Balance on hand	\$5.40 (Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 72v-73).

September 27, 1948 — Minutes

The meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was called to order by the President, Mrs. Gleese, and all prayed the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary and Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Reports

Mrs. Mabel Peel:

explained about the new drapes in the social room

noted that the Past Matron intended making drapes for the dining room also

Cultural Initiative

Mrs. Gleese expressed her desire:

to have a chorus, quartette or double quartette among the members

Quilt Work (Charity Activity)

Mrs. Lonne:

reported on the quilt situation one quilt finished and ready to be given away several more in progress

It was decided:

to set aside a day each week

to complete the work the Auxiliary has made and given away twenty-nine quilts Mrs. Crouet (or Crouer) and Mrs. Lonne:

appointed co-chairmen of the quilt committee Several members volunteered to help.

Acknowledgments

The President sent a card to:

Mrs. Lena Schaeffer

expressing thanks for her service during the past year

Condolences

A sympathy note was sent to:

Mrs. Ralph Owens on the loss of her brother

Next Meeting

Next meeting: third Monday in October

Refreshment committee:

Mrs. Gleese

Mrs. Kellen

Mrs. King

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Genevieve Word (Sec.-Treas.)

Financial Report (Sept. 27, 1948)

Bank:

Bank Balance \$65.59

Income:

Collection \$4.56

Sale of 2 pies \$1.10

Total income \$5.66

Expenses:

Expense of pies (for dinner) \$4.40

Balance \$1.26

Cash:

Cash on hand \$5.40

Total cash \$6.66

Total funds (bank + cash) \$72.25 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 73v-74](#)).

October Meeting

The two Chapters of the Masonic Order held a dinner, the Ladies Auxiliary furnishing the vegetables and salad.

The group met in the Eastern Star room for the program which was given by Rev. Beelenberg of Oil City. He showed many beautiful slides of color photography and gave a lecture on his pictures ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 74v](#)).

The materials for 1948 demonstrate the continued development of the Ladies Auxiliary as a stable, institutionally structured, and socially oriented organization, in which the principal areas of activity—charity, internal cohesion, and participation in socio-cultural life—were firmly consolidated.

First and foremost, the charitable function was not only preserved but strengthened. The Auxiliary actively responded to local crises (such as fires and needy families), continuing the distribution of clothing, essential goods, and especially quilts, which remained a key instrument of assistance. At the same time, its

activities became more organized: committees were established, and regular work patterns were introduced (for example, designating a specific day each week to complete quilt projects), indicating a transition from episodic aid to systematic social work.

Simultaneously, the internal structure and continuity of the organization were reinforced. Leadership transitions occurred without conflict and were accompanied by reflection on the organization's goals and functions, as well as expressions of gratitude to outgoing officers. Regular reference to the by-laws and discussion of the Auxiliary's functions point to a high level of institutional self-awareness.

The cultural and social dimension also became increasingly significant. In addition to traditional dinners and joint activities with the Knights Templar, new initiatives emerged aimed at developing internal cultural life (such as the idea of forming a choir or musical ensembles). The Auxiliary participated in broader public and church events, interacted with distinguished guests, and became more deeply involved in the life of the Masonic Temple as a social space, including matters related to interior improvements.

The financial position remained stable and balanced: income from collections and events covered current expenses while maintaining a steady overall fund. This allowed the organization to support charitable projects while sustaining its own operations.

Thus, 1948 reflects a stage of maturity: the Ladies Auxiliary functioned as a stable social institution with well-developed mechanisms of assistance, internal governance, and cultural activity, gradually expanding its role from an auxiliary body of the Commandery to an independent social institution within the local community.

1949
January 24, 1949

The meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was held in the social room and the Pres. Mrs. Gleese opened the meeting by all praying the Lord's Prayer.

The Secretary & treasurer's report was read and approved.

Mrs. Crouet reported on quilts and that all were finished but one.

Mrs. Lonne & Mrs. Ross were reported ill and cards were signed by the members to be sent to them. Mrs. Gleese thanked the committee who helped serve in October at the dinner.

New business was brought to attention by the Pres. explaining the need of robes for the Commandery and wanted to know if the auxiliary felt inclined to help in the matter. A discussion followed and Mrs. Gleese appointed Mrs. Armstrong to inquire about material and report at our next meeting.

Mrs. Gleese mentioned that in some organizations it was customary to present the outgoing commander with gold epaulets costing five dollars and wanted to know if our auxiliary would be interested in doing the same. No decision or motion was made.

Mrs. Gleese then thanked the committee, Mrs. Barron, Mrs. Edrie and Mrs. Crouet for serving the dinner.

Program – Movies – Mrs. Archie Hunter
Genevieve Word
Sec.-Treas.

Treas. Report	
Bank Balance	65.59
Collection	6.28
Expense pies	5.50
.....	0.78
Petty Cash	
candles	0.45
stamps	0.50
cards	0.60
	1.55
	\$6.66
	1.55
	\$5.11
	0.78

(Cash 5.59 on hand)

Total 71.48 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 44. F. 75-75v](#)).
End of the book.

The final entry for January 1949 provides a kind of summary of the entire preceding period of the Ladies Auxiliary's existence and demonstrates a state of stability, maturity, and the completion of its organizational cycle.

By the beginning of 1949, the Auxiliary appears as a fully developed structure with well-established mechanisms of operation. Charitable activity remained central: the completion of nearly all quilt projects symbolized not only practical assistance but also a long-standing tradition of social support running throughout the entire minute book. At the same time, attention to the organization's members was preserved—the practice of sending cards to the sick, expressing gratitude, and providing mutual support remained an important part of its internal culture.

A notable feature is the strengthening of interaction with the Commandery: issues of material support (such as robes) were discussed, as well as symbolic forms of participation in ritual life (for example, the possible presentation of gold epaulets to an outgoing commander). This indicates that the Auxiliary had firmly established itself as an auxiliary, yet significant, element of the Masonic structure, participating not only in social but also in ceremonial spheres.

The organization continued to fulfill cultural and recreational functions (programs, films), maintaining internal cohesion and the regularity of meetings. Its financial position remained stable: modest expenses were balanced by incoming funds, and the general fund was maintained at a steady level, reflecting effective resource management.

Overall, the final entry does not indicate crisis or decline; on the contrary, it reflects the calm and confident functioning of a mature organization. The conclusion of the minute book in 1949 appears more as a formal end of a record-keeping period than the end of the organization's activity itself. By this point, the Ladies Auxiliary had become an established social institution within the local Masonic community, combining charity, internal solidarity, and active participation in the life of the Commandery.

4. Conclusion

Overall, the present study of the minutes of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63 (Warren, Pennsylvania) for 1938–1949 makes it possible to reconstruct the evolution of this organization from its formative stage into a stable and institutionally mature social association playing a significant role within the local Masonic community.

At the initial stage (1938), the Auxiliary emerged under the direct influence of similar organizations in neighboring towns and quickly developed into a structured body with clearly defined organizational elements: by-laws were drafted, officers were elected, regular meetings were established, and a basic committee system was formed. Already in its first year, the Auxiliary demonstrated a capacity for self-organization and initiative, combining support for Commandery events with the first independent charitable practices.

In 1939–1940, the structure was strengthened and stabilized. The organization developed consistent forms of activity, including regular tureen dinners, fundraising events (card parties), and systematic charitable work. Its financial base gradually expanded, while governance became more rationalized (including through the consolidation of offices). At the same time, the Auxiliary's autonomy increased while maintaining close ties with the Knights Templar, indicating the formation of its own institutional identity.

The period of 1941–1943 reflects a qualitative transformation under the impact of World War II. The Auxiliary became part of a broader system of civic mobilization: key activities included work for the Red Cross, the production of quilts and afghans, and support for the “boys in service” through the sending of packages, letters, and gifts. Charitable work assumed a systematic, labor-intensive, and practically oriented character, while internal social life became subordinated to wartime priorities.

In 1944–1945, a gradual transition to a postwar model can be observed. Wartime themes persisted but lost their dominant role, giving way to internal social support and the restoration of traditional forms of club activity. Recreational and cultural events returned, and local charitable practices expanded, focusing on members of the community and families in need.

The final transformation occurred in 1946–1948, when the Auxiliary became established as a stable local charitable institution. The production and distribution of quilts assumed a central role as a universal form of assistance, while support for the local population (especially fire-affected families and the ill) expanded, and internal horizontal ties were strengthened. At the same time, participation in socio-cultural life broadened, including interaction with the Temple, churches, and external organizations.

By 1947–1948, the organization had reached its highest level of institutional maturity: financial stability, a developed committee system, regular leadership rotation, a high level of self-awareness (including reference to its own history and by-laws), and the capacity to implement both internal and external social initiatives.

The final entry of 1949 reflects a state of stable equilibrium. The Auxiliary functioned as a fully developed structure with well-established practices of charity, social support, and participation in the life of the Commandery. Notably, discussions extended beyond practical matters to symbolic forms of interaction (such

as participation in ceremonial culture through the making of regalia and potential gifts to the commander), indicating deep integration into the Masonic environment.

Thus, during the period under study, the Ladies Auxiliary evolved from a supporting association into an independent local social institution. Its activities reflect broader processes—from prewar social self-organization through wartime mobilization to postwar adaptation and the institutionalization of civic mutual aid. The Auxiliary served as an important channel for the inclusion of women in the Masonic social space, providing not only support for the fraternity but also shaping a sustainable system of local charity, social solidarity, and cultural life.

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