

Inventory of the

**Princeton Game and Fish Club**  
Princeton, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 113**

## INTRODUCTION

George S. Skinner, President, deposited the Princeton Game and Fish Club Records with the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on September 22, 1980. Several addenda were added at later dates.

Property rights in the collection remain with the Princeton Game and Fish Club; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 4.5  
Number of containers: 7  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 113

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Princeton Game and Fish Club Records document the history of the organization and reveal the wildlife conservation policies of the state of Illinois from 1877 to 2006. Minutes, correspondence, and treasurer's records detail the club's semi-annual business meetings, decisions on membership applications, land and building expenses, and responses to game laws. Applications, shares assignments, proxies, and transfers document club membership and depict member selectivity and the group's strict adherence to membership rules. Data on the availability of game for each season and the club's hunting success is in the kill records (1943-1994). Legal documents, particularly land leases, responses to flood control proposals, and conservation information complete the collection. This material provides an excellent opportunity for studying the history of some of the wildlife preservation issues facing the world today.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Princeton Game and Fish Club first met on October 3, 1887 to encourage and promote the sports of hunting and fishing and to aid in the enforcement of the game and fish laws of the state of Illinois. The 43 charter members elected Gilbert V. Thomas, president, Isaac R. Stewart, Vice President, Howard H. Priestly, secretary, and Jacob Chritzman, treasurer. On June 2, 1892, the club incorporated and limited its membership to 50 and by the mid-1900's the Princeton Game and Fish Club owned and leased hundreds of acres of land in Bureau and Putnam Counties.

Over the years, the club supported and opposed conservation laws proposed by the state of Illinois. In 1946, the Federal Dike project raised objections and club members contacted all the area farmers to join in their protest. Prior to that time shooting prohibition during the spring season caused friction. The group also changed internally. At first, the club banned hunting on

Saturday and Sunday; on March 4, 1895 they suspended the Saturday ban. In 1902 guest hunter rules changed--guest hunters could be women. Many of the old rules are still apparent today, 50 members only, for instance, but the Princeton Game and Fish Club strives to continue their work to preserve wildlife and encourage outdoor recreation.

#### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Hunting  
Princeton (Ill.)  
Princeton Game and Fish Club  
Shooting Preserves  
Wildlife Conservation

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1-2	By-Laws and Amendments, (1887-1972)
	3	Legal Documents (Leases), 1877-1957
	4-6	Minutes, (1887-1961)
	7-11	Correspondence, 1892-1969
	12	Description of Club Lands and Maps, (1911-1915)
	13	Building Committee Reports and Invoices, 1918-1919
	14-16	Treasurer's Reports, (1908-1949)
	17-19	Treasurer's Account Ledgers, 1891-1900, 1940-1966
	20-23	Dues Account Ledgers, 1898-1924
	2	1-2
3		Tax Records, (1894-1924)
4		Labor Record, 1927
5		Annual Bulletins, (1941-1974)
6		Attendance Records, 1953-1971
7		Membership Lists, (1891-1893, 1953-1972)
8		Membership Applications, (1940-1972)
9		List of Shares and Assignments, 1912 [Missing 3/2/17]
10		Transfer of Shares, (1911-1965)
11-15		Membership Certificates and Transfer Information, 1892-1964
16-19		Proxies, (1903-1956)
20-33		Kill Records, (1943-1958)
3		1-14
4	1-4	Insurance Policies, (1938-1969)
	5	Contractors Invoices, (1956-1972)
	6	Flood Control, (1943-1959)
	7	Flood Control Literature, 1937-1948
	8	Regulations and Conservation Information, (1934-1970)
	9	Minutes, Game and Fish Protective Association, 1921-1922
	10-11	Contracts and Leases, 1918-1984
	12	Flood Control Literature, 1966-1986
	13	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, October 13, 1984

ADDENDUM

5	1	By-laws and House and Ground Rules, (1973-1984)
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<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
5	2	Minutes, August 8, 1955-October 21, 1986	
	3	Correspondence, 1962-1990	
	4	Federal Aviation, 1958-1977	
	5	Property Records, 1915, 1975-1977	
	6	Lists of Blinds, 1949-1980	
	7	Permit Applications and Hunting Regulations, 1953-1991	
	8-9	Treasurer's (Secretary) Reports, 1949-1972	
	10	Financial Statements (Balance Sheets, etc.), 1972-1987	
	11	Audit, 1962, 1964, 1983	
	12	Bank Account Books, 1934-1973	
	6	1	Annual Bulletins, 1975-2005
		2	Membership Lists, (1944-1976)
3		Membership Applications, (1973-2006)	
4		Limited Membership Book, 1940-1980	
5		Regular Membership Book, 1941-1987	
6		Certificate of Election - Officers, (1930-1968)	
7		Correspondence regarding Stock Shares, 1947-1975	
8		Share Sales, 1957-1973	
9		Kill Sheet Reports and Correspondence, (1943-1989)	
10-11		Kill Records, 1973-1977	
7		1-6	Kill Records, 1978-1991, 1994
	7	Princeton Game and Fish Club et al vs. Steel City National Bank et al, 1961-1976	
	8	Princeton Game and Fish Club et al vs. Three Feathers Duck Club et al, 1971, 1973	
	9	Newspaper Clippings, 1946, 1950, n.d.	
	10	Receipts, 1922, 1924	
	11	Ducks Unlimited, 1947-1973	
	Oversize Drawer 16	10	Maps: Swamp Lands and Goose Lake, n.d. Club Property, n.d.