

**GUIDE TO THE
MICROFILM EDITION OF**

**THE FREEDOM CIVIC
ASSOCIATION RECORDS
1917-1992**

A Microfilm Publication by

Scholarly Resources Inc.
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ISBN: 0-8420-4274-1

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Printed and bound in the
United States of America

2005

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Note to Researcher

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The microfilming of this collection was supported by the Sedgwick Foundation.

Provenance: Frank Longo, 1996.

Number of Containers: 4; **Oversize Folders:** 0; **Oversize Volumes:** 0

Microfilm: 5 reels

Size: 1.951linearfeet/.591linear meters

Restrictions: None

Introduction to the Collection

The Freedom Civic Association, also known as the Societa Gildonese of Cleveland, Ohio, was founded on May 15, 1917. Guiseppe Perrotti and others established the society for the benefit of their fellow immigrants from Gildone, Italy. Incorporated by the state of Ohio in August 1917, the society was organized as a fraternal, social, and patriotic association. The organization offered the Gildone immigrants health and death benefits, taught them English, and helped with employment. Originally centered at Alta House in “Little Italy,” the organization later moved to Collinwood as the Italian American community moved out and acculturated. The society met regularly at the Allegro Club until it disbanded in 1992.

The Freedom Civic Association Records, 1917-1992 are arranged alphabetically by document type and then chronologically. The collection consists primarily of bound ledger books that record membership lists, minutes, financial information, and secretary’s books. The remainder is loose materials consisting of bylaws and constitutions, correspondence, membership lists, and financial information.

This collection is of value not only to researchers studying the history of early-twentieth-century Italian immigration to the United States and to Cleveland but also to those studying social services and “Americanization” programs provided by immigrant benevolent and fraternal societies, as well as to researchers interested in Cleveland’s, Italian-American community. Membership, death, and cemetery lists are useful for genealogical purposes.

All photographs have been removed to the print and photograph collection.

The Freedom Civic Association Records, 1917-1992

Reel Contents

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Reel 1 | Container 1 | Folder 1 | Articles of Incorporation, July 2, 1917 (original housed in Container 4, Folder 44). |
| | | Folder 2 | Anniversary dinner, program and attendance lists, 1987. |
| | | Folder 3 | Attendance, meetings, bound volume, including financial accounts and dues information, January 1930-January 1933. |
| | | Folder 4 | Attendance, meetings, bound volume, including financial accounts and dues information, January 1933-January 1935. |
| | | Folder 5 | Cemetery and death lists, 1958-1991. |
| | | Folder 6 | Committee reports, bound volume, including some minutes and notes, 1931-1957. |
| | | Folder 7 | Committee reports, January 31, 1935. |
| | | Folder 8 | Constitution and bylaws, 1948, 1974, and undated. |
| | | Folder 9 | Correspondence, miscellaneous, 1934, 1941-1992, and undated. |
| | | Folder 10 | Correspondence president's office, 1982-1990. |
| | | Folder 11 | Death records, bound volume, 1923-1987. |
| | | Folder 12 | Financial records, account book, January 1922-January 1930. |
| | | Folder 13 | Financial records, account book, dues, June 1923-January 1926. |
| | | Folder 14 | Financial records, account book, dues, January 1926-January 1930. |

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Reel Contents

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| Reel 2 | Container 1 (cont.) | Folder 15 | Financial records, account book, dues, 1930-1940. |
| | | Folder 16 | Financial records, account book, 1935-1942. |
| | | Folder 17 | Financial records, notes, and reports, 1940-1991. |
| | | Folder 18 | Financial records, bound volume, dues and financial reports, 1943-1951 (original housed in Container 4, Folder 45). |
| | | Folder 19 | Financial records, bound volume, dues, and financial reports, 1952-1988 (original housed in Container 4, Folder 46). |
| | | Folder 20 | Financial records, account notebook, 1967-1968. |
| | | Folder 21 | Financial records, president's financial notebook, 1975-1981. |
| | | Folder 22 | Membership, bound volume, 1934-1947. |
| | | Folder 23 | Membership, bound volume, ca. 1935-1938. |
| | | Folder 24 | Membership, loose materials removed from Folder 23, 1988 and undated. |
| | | Folder 25 | Membership, bound volume, 1955-1959. |
| | | Folder 26 | Membership, loose materials, including membership lists, 1958-1992 and undated. |
| Reel 3 | Container 1 (cont.) | Folder 27 | Minutes, bound volume, March 1918-January 1920. |
| | | Folder 28 | Minutes, bound volume, January 1920-June 1923. |
| | Container 2 | Folder 29 | Minutes, bound volume, July 1923-January 1926. |
| | | Folder 30 | Minutes, bound volume, January 1926-January 1928. |
| | | Folder 31 | Minutes, bound volume, January 1928-September 1934. |

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Reel Contents

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| Reel 4 | Container 2 <i>(cont.)</i> | Folder 32 | Minutes, bound volume, January 1935-January 1946. |
| | | Folder 33 | Minutes, bound volume, 1938-1984. |
| | Container 3 | Folder 34 | Minutes, bound volume, January 1946-December 1962. |
| | | Folder 35 | Minutes, bound volume, 1963-1991. |
| Reel 5 | Container 3 <i>(cont.)</i> | Folder 36 | Minutes, loose materials removed from Folder 35, 1964-1990 and undated. |
| | | Folder 37 | Minutes, bound volume, including constitutional bylaws, undated. |
| | | Folder 38 | Minutes, loose materials removed from Folder 37, undated. |
| | | Folder 39 | Newspaper clippings, 1959-1988. |
| | | Folder 40 | Oddments, 1974-1988 and undated; photographs, group portraits, unidentified, 1957 and undated; ICA Hall, view, undated. |
| | | Folder 41 | Picnic committee, minutes, bound volume, 1927-1928 and 1944. |
| | | Folder 42 | Picnic committee, minutes, bound volume, 1928-1929. |
| | | Folder 43 | Sick members, bound volume, 1928-1987 (original housed in Container 4, Folder 47). |