

GRACE COLLEGE

WINONA HISTORY CENTER

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WINONA LITERARY CLUB COLLECTION GUIDE

Record Group: 14.1

Location: Winona History Center

Size: 6 Letter-sized document boxes

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Historical Note

Indiana's first literary society was organized in New Harmony in 1858 and by 1893, there were over fifty societies on the roster of the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs.¹ An exclusively female society, the Winona Literary Club began in the winter of 1903 by Mrs. H.H. Myers who wanted to start a club of "dignified, talented, and cultured women" who could meet while their husbands worked in Chicago over the winter months.² In its infancy, the Club had fifteen members and met once a month. It was, from its beginning, a community-focused club intent on, "mutual improvement and development of social life of the community."³ By 1908, the club reached fifty-five members and was affiliated with both the Kosciusko County Federation of Women's Clubs and the Indiana Federation of Clubs. Several notable locals such as Helen Sunday, Ruth Rodeheaver, and Lucy Upson were honored with lifetime memberships. As of 2014 the literary club remained active with a membership of over fifty women.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains primarily materials related to the Winona Literary Club from its founding in 1903 to 2014 when the bulk of the collection was gifted to Grace College's Winona History Center. Secondly, it also contains materials on the Kosciusko County Federation of

¹ Martha Nicholson McKay, *Literary Clubs of Indiana* (Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill Company, 1894), 14-18.

² Timeline. Winona Literary Club Collection, Grace College Archives and Special Collections.

³ Helen Howe, "Firsthand account of the Winona Literary Club: Early Years," 1983. Winona Literary Club Collection, Grace College Archives and Special Collections.

Women's Clubs and the Indiana Federation of Clubs. The collection continues to expand. It is organized under the following subseries:

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