

Inventory of the

Harmony Grange No. 957
Caledonia, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 108

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Edward G. Brown, Caledonia, donated the Harmony Grange No. 957 Collection to the Regional History Center on August 25, 1980.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1
Number of containers: 2
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 108

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records document the establishment and history of Harmony Grange No. 957, Caledonia, Illinois From 1874 to 1968. The main portion of the collection is a partial set of minute books (1878-1955) relating how farmers gathered to discuss improved crop-raising and marketing techniques. These books also detail the meeting entertainment activities which helped to create a cohesive feeling among farming families. Harmony Grange's dedication to community service is illustrated by a community service notebook describing programs such as aid to retarded children and sponsoring youth groups. Financial data including grange expenses, dues, supplies, and community functions are contained in the secretary's record, treasurer's account book, a dues account book, and a roll book. The collection also provides information on the grange movement in two publications distributed by the National Grange Organization.

In addition to the historical information available for the subordinate grange, a small portion of the records document the history of the Harmony Junior Grange No. 78 (1964-1968).

Researchers should note that a Grange history is available in box 1, file folder 1. In addition, a number of other collections held by the Regional History Center relate in whole or part to the Grange organization: South Grove Grange (RC 61), Etna Grange (RC 63), Hanover Scenic Grange (RC 64), Round Grove Grange (RC 68), Willowdale Grange (RC 80), Westfield Grange (RC 88), Milledgeville Grange (RC 101), Genesee Grange (RC 102), and the Laura Cooper Collection (RC 44).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Deputy Sylvester Scott organized the Harmony Grange No. 957 with forty-six charter members on January 23, 1874. The members delayed choosing a master until their second meeting when they elected P. S. Doolittle. During its first seventy-five years, Harmony Grange met at various member's homes, Harlem Consolidated School, and the Caledonia Town Hall. Harmony Grange dedicated a new hall on January 23, 1949. Primarily a social organization, the

Harmony Grange sponsored picnics, dances, oyster suppers, and lectures. The grange also played a large role in community affairs by supporting a local Girl Scout troop and 4-H Club. In 1967, Harmony Grange, along with the North Park P.T.A., initiated a special education program in Harlem Township Schools. A highway safety program also was developed by the grange and adopted by the State of Illinois to protect school children walking home along busy thoroughfares.

Although membership has declined in recent years, Harmony Grange is still an important part of the local farming community today.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Caledonia
Grange
Harmony Grange

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1 2-10	Grange History, 1874-1964 Minute Book, 1878-1914
2	1-3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Minute Book, (1918-1955) Secretary's Account Book, 1911-1948 Treasurer's Account Book, 1911-1949 Dues Account Book, 1938-1955 Roll Book, 1874-1875 Community Service Notebook, 1966-1967 Junior Grange Treasurer's Account Book, 1964-1966 Junior Grange Membership List, 1967-1968 <u>Centennial Themes, 1967</u> <u>The Grange Lecturer's Bulletin, 1967-1968</u>