

Inventory of the

Beaver Valley Grange
Boone County, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 142

INTRODUCTION

Donald Paulson and Avis Swanson deposited the Beaver Valley Grange records in the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on November 19, 1981. Additional records were added on May 18, 2004.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Beaver Valley Grange; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.75
Number of containers: 5
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 142

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Primarily comprised of meeting minutes and treasurer's account books, the Beaver Valley Grange records documents the organization's history from its inception in 1916 to 1973. The meeting minutes indicate the number of members attending, social activities, the topic of discussions, resolutions approved by the members, and the amount and services for which bills are paid. Topics of discussions range from the science of agriculture through the proper roles for men and women in rural life to political legislation on the state and national levels. Researchers should note that the minutes dating from 1924 to 1948 neglect to thoroughly record the group's discussions and instead report on bills paid and plans for social activities. Nevertheless, the collection does provide an excellent insight into the concerns and opinions of rural citizens since World War I.

Also included in the collection are Juvenile Grange meeting minutes (1938-1957) and cash books for the Ladies Auxiliary (1921-1973). The Juvenile Grange minutes discuss the activities of this young Grangers group and how they participated in the parent Grange's events. Records from the Illinois State Grange, by-laws and rules of order (1929, 1943) rosters (1930-1955), and annual convention proceedings (1935-1938), complete the collection.

Researchers studying the Grange movement in northern Illinois may wish to check the other Grange collections held by the Regional History Center (see index in the Guide to Sources). The Center also holds several collections from other agricultural organizations (such as the Farm Bureau) which contain information on agriculture in northern Illinois.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Beaver Valley Grange organized on December 4, 1916 with 19 members. William Sullivan, Frank Salley, Emma Johnson, Robert Emanuel, William Emanuel, and Helen

Johannsen served as the first officers. Cognizant of the national organization's goals, to stimulate rural people, both farm and non-farm, and to dignify and lighten their labor by diffusing knowledge and expanding the human mind, the Beaver Valley Grange presented programs, discussed current events topics, and sponsored numerous social events. The group also had a booth at the County Fair each year and helped raise money for charity organizations. In 1919 Beaver Valley Grange began planning a meeting hall and on June 30, 1950 the group finally incorporated.

Over the years the Beaver Valley Grange passed many resolutions favoring or opposing legislation and on activities exclusively designed for the members. On January 18, 1918 the group approved a resolution asking farmers to increase the production of beef and hogs instead of keeping only to extensive dairying. Another resolution in 1920 stated "that if the businessmen of Belvidere are going to be unfair to the Grange, we (the Grange members) exercise unusual care to see to it that we avoid patronizing them." A copy of this proposal went to the Belvidere newspaper. Resolutions concerning political legislation or the government ranged from approving government control of the telephone and telegraph systems (1918), petitioning the repeal of the Day Light Savings Law (1919), deciding women should have the right to vote (1920), supporting a bill authorizing the Department of Justice to investigate the revolutionary and propaganda activities of the Communists (1932), protesting the drafting of 18 and 19 year olds (1942), setting up entirely new school legislation in the state (1950), founding a National Swine Health Research Foundation (1952), to a resolution concerning the poor condition of roads (1969). Other topics of concern include the League of Nations (1919), should farmers retire to the city? (1919), should the dairy farmer use butter substitutes? (1921), the oleomargarine industry (1931), marijuana (1938), labeling bags of feed with the amount of digestive proteins and nutrients (1947), fertilizing corn with nitrogen (1951), and soil conservation (1956).

The Grange sponsored social activities as well. These included card parties, ice cream socials, dances, picnics, and lecturers. The raised money for infantile paralysis and sent care packages to servicemen overseas during World I and II. Today, Beaver Valley Grange continues to act as a social, educational, and political organization for its members.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Beaver Valley Grange
Boone County
Boone County Pomona Grange
Grange

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1-16	Meeting Minutes, 1916-1978
	17-18	Treasurer's Account Books, 1917-1950
	19	Officers' Attendance Record Book, 1934, 1961
	20-23	Ladies Auxiliary Cash Books, 1921-1973
	24-29	Juvenile Grange Meeting Minutes, 1938-1942, 1949-1957
	30	State Grange By-laws and Rules of Order, 1929, 1943
	31	State Grange Rosters, (1930-1955)
	32	State Grange Annual Session Proceedings, 1935-1938
<u>ADDENDUM</u>		
2	1	Bylaws, 1950
	2-3	Meeting Minutes, June 25, 1993-November 24, 1995, September 14, 2001-October 10, 2003
	4-5	Communications, 1981-1997
3	1	Communications, 1999-2003
	2	Committees and Officer Lists, 1992-2000
	3	Membership Rosters, (1991-2003)
	4	Dues Receipt Books, January 23, 1987-September 16, 2000, 2003 (2 volumes)
	5	Secretary's Order to the Treasurer, September 25, 1992- March 22, 1996
	6	Treasurer's Book, March 31, 1949-January 1, 1993
	7	The Eager Beaver, Newsletter, (November 3, 1998- December 2002)
	8	40 th Anniversary, 1956
	9	50 th Anniversary, 1966
	10	60 th Anniversary, 1976
	11	65 th Anniversary, 1981-1982
	12	Land Sale Transactions, 1994-1996
	13	Grange Memorial Service, Candle Lighting Service (historical information), 1935-1988
	14	Salley Memorial to the Grange, 1989
	15	Certificates, 1977-1996
	16	Scrapbook, Photographs and Clippings, 1977-1981
4	1	Newspaper Articles, 1975-1982, 1984, 1992

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
4	2	Photographs and Negatives, Unidentified, n.d. (4, 8 strips)	
	3	Ladies Auxiliary, History, n.d.	
		Women's Activity Committee:	
	4	Minutebook, 1972-1989	
	5-6	Notebooks, 1970-1988, 1982-1991	
	7	Communications and Newsletters, 1990-1992	
	8	Program and Project Ideas, 1989-1996	
	9	Scrapbook, 1989-1990	
	10	Home Ec. Committee/Women's Activity Committee, Minutebook, 1959-1972	
	11	Home Ec Committee, Minutebook, 1989-1995	
	12	"Betty Champion Night," 1975	
	13	Writings of Verna Marshallsay, 1954, n.d.	
	14	Boone County Pomona Grange, 1997-2000 Illinois State Grange:	
	15	Bylaws and Rules of Order, 1922, 1929, 1964	
	16	125 th Anniversary Program, 1871-1996	
5	1-2	Rosters, 1994-1999, 2002-2003	
	3-4	Annual Session Journal of Proceedings, 1937, 1991, 1993-1994, 1996-1998	
	5	Annual Session Programs, 2001-2003	
	6	The Illinois Granger, February 1987, August, November and December 1991 National Grange:	
	7	Constitution, Bylaws and Digest, 1982	
	8	<u>Grange</u> : Doorway to Community Action, Program Handbook, 1993-1994	
	9	Annual Convention Program Highlights, 1990, 1992	
	10	Legislative Policies, 1999	
	11	Seventh Degree Conferral and Convocation, November 19, 1994	
	12	Brochures, n.d.	