

Inventory of the

Friends in Council
Princeton, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 129

INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Nancy Zearing, President, donated the records of the Friends in Council, Princeton, Illinois, to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on February 26, 1981.

Property rights in the collection belong to 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: 2.25
Number of containers: 3
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 129

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Friends in Council records collection documents the history of the organization from 1880 to 2016, with the bulk of the materials dating between 1880 and 1967. A major series of the collection contains minute books (1880-1967); the minutes record the number of members attending, the topic of the meetings lecture, and current events of the past week. As a group organized to teach members on cultural, historical, and scientific subjects, the minutes provide an interesting insight into society's views on world events.

Other records include a record of members and banquet programs (1880-1935), annual programs, banquet booklets, and programs from other Friends in Council organizations. The record of members and banquet programs discusses the topics of the annual banquet meetings and include a complete transcription of the special speech delivered by a member. Yearly topics of research and the schedule for each meeting appear in the annual programs.

Researchers should note that Box 1, Folder 1 contains brief historical sketches of the organization. The Center holds several other women's organizational records collections which may provide supplementary information: American Association for University Women (DeKalb); Sycamore, Rochelle, DeKalb, Mendota, Woodstock, and Belvidere Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Jolly Neighbors Club (Prophetstown) and DeKalb League of Women Voters (RC 56, 97, 98, 99, 112, 118, 120, 121, 122). In addition, the Shimer College Collection (RC 77), Woodbury-Forsythe Diaries (RC 8), and materials in the Vertical File Manuscripts Collection contain letters, diaries, and records written by northern Illinois women during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Friends in Council organized on July 28, 1880 with 12 women meeting at Mrs. Volney S. Cooper's home. Established for the mutual improvement of women by means of reading and studying, the group limited membership to 24 women (later changed to 25) of mature age willing to work and study. They considered young women too frivolous for dedicated research. The group met at Mrs. Cooper's house for 8 years with each bringing their own chair. They then moved to the Methodist Church, to members' homes, to the Del Monte Club rooms, and finally, to the library. Mrs. Whipple served as the first president with Mrs. Chamberlain as vice president and Mrs. Ford as secretary.

Originally the organization met on Friday mornings from 9 o'clock to 11 o'clock, but since Friday is sweeping day, they switched to Thursdays in 1882. In 1905 the club chose the rose as the group's symbol. Over the years, annual topics of discussion and research included European history, religion, music, wars, law, and the history of many countries. Each woman presented at least one paper on a chosen topic within the broader subject. A unique sort of women's organization, the Friends in Council not only serves a social function, but also educates and broadens the knowledge of its members.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Friends in Council
Princeton (Ill.)
Rural Women
Women
Women--Societies and clubs

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Historical Information
	2	Constitution, By-Laws, Amendments, (1894-1955)
	3-21	Minutes, 1880-1904, 1907-1932
2	1-8	Minutes, 1933-1967
	9	Record of Members and Banquet Programs, 1880-1935
	10	Treasurer's Books, 1902-1975
	11	Correspondence, (1880-1979)
	12	Memorial Tributes, (1885-1979)
	13-17 18-19	Annual Programs, 1885-1980, 2005+ Annual Banquet Programs, 1886-1950 (64)
3	1	Annual Banquet Programs, 1950-1980, 2016 (32)
	2-3	Attendance Records (Secretary's Reports), 1954-1980 (26)
	4	Programs from Quincy, Illinois Friends in Council, (1884-1918) (10)
	5	Programs from other Friends in Council groups, (1886-1905) (7)
	6	Friends in Council Backup Files, 1880-2005 includes 125 th Year Anniversary Pictures, 1 DVD