

Inventory of the

East Oswego Farmers Club

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 141

INTRODUCTION

Paul M. Shoger, Past President, donated the records of the East Oswego Farmers Club to the Regional History Center in July 1984.

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: .5
Number of containers: 1
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 141

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Records in this collection span the entire history of the East Oswego Farmers Club from 1919 to 1959. Types of records include a complete set of meeting minutes and a small amount of correspondence. For additional information researchers should refer to RC 103, Kendall County Farm Bureau; RC 105, Kendall-Grundy Service Company; VFM 4.57, Sycamore Farmers Club.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The East Oswego Farmers Club was organized in the spring of 1919 by a group of Kendall County farm families. The club's first officers included: Oscar Shoger, President; N. L. Pearce, Vice-President; A. Burkhart, Secretary; E. T. Pearce, Treasurer. A constitution was approved in April 1919 and outlined the original purposes of club members; to improve soil fertility, livestock breeding, farmstead buildings, home life, and community life. Monthly meetings were held at members' homes until the 1930's and included a program of entertainment, discussion, and a business meeting. Guest speakers, often experts in their field, focused on rural concerns such as good roads, soil improvement, agricultural cooperatives as well as more general topics usually reflecting current events.

During its early years the East Oswego Farmers' Club often met with other farmers' clubs for picnics, musical programs, and athletic events. Membership fluctuated between 20 and 30 families until the end of World War II when membership gradually declined, due partly to changes in farm ownership and members' children moving from the area. By the time the club decided to disband it had become primarily a social group. In addition, the Farm Bureau had become the most powerful farmers' organization in Illinois and Kendall County. At its February 1959 meeting club members voted 23-4 to disband. The final meeting of the East Oswego Farmers' Club was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd on March 19, 1959.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

East Oswego Farmers' Club
Farm Life, Societies
Kendall County
Oswego

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	History, 1919-1959
	2-7	Minutes of meetings, 1919-1959
	8	Correspondence, 1930-1959