

Inventory of the

**LeRoy Community Grange,
No. 1873
Boone County, Illinois**

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 260

INTRODUCTION

Rose Marie Nemec, Master of the LeRoy Community Grange, No. 1873 donated the organization's records to the Regional History Center on January 11, 2004.

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

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.25
Number of containers: 3
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 260

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The LeRoy Community Grange records date from 1933 to 2000 and include secretary's books, a treasurer's account book, cash/day books, and dues account books. A complete run of meeting minutes from January 20, 1939 to December 5, 1941 and January 28, 1944 to December 11, 1993 comprise a majority of the records. Unfortunately the secretary's books that contain the meeting minutes from 1933 to 1938 and from 1942 to 1943 are missing. The information contained in the secretary's books vary from volume to volume but may include the roll call and election of officers, number of members attending the meeting, financial information such as bills paid and treasurer's reports, a health report on the Grange members, information on the projects and programs the grange was involved with, and reports from the various committees such as Legislative, Agriculture, and Home Economics. Topics range from agricultural and legislative issues to information on the events and construction at the Boone County Fair Grounds to money donated to charitable organizations such as the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, and Salvation Army.

The treasurer's account book and cash/day books document the financial details of the Grange while the dues account books and dues receipt book provides information on membership and dues fluctuations.

Researchers interested in the Grange movement in northern Illinois should check the Regional Collections Guide to Sources for other Grange collections held by the Regional History Center.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The LeRoy Community Grange organized in 1933. The grange experienced a few problems when at the October 10, 1947 meeting the members voted to suspend the charter until a future date. At the next meeting on November 13, 1947, the voted was declared illegal because

all members were not notified before the vote and the grange continued with new officers. On March 24, 1950, the members voted to purchase the Stone School for \$550 and the stove for \$87.50. The building was paid off in 1954. A note burning party and dedication ceremony was held on June 4 of that year. Several additions and improvements were made to the building over the years. On April 13, 1958, the 25th anniversary program was held along with the dedication of the juvenile grange room.

The Grange sponsored numerous events, discussed current topics, and presented programs during their meetings. The members were involved in social activities such as card parties, ice cream socials, and dances. They contributed to charitable causes such as the March of Dimes and the Sharon and Capron Rescue Squads and helped the community by picking crops and sawing wood for injured or ill farmers and helping at a work day for the 1967 Belvidere tornado victims. The grange also was active on the Boone County Fair Board and participated in the tearing down, renovation and building of the buildings, planting trees, and constructing new roads.

As with most Granges, the members of the LeRoy Community Grange were concerned with legislative issues. The members wrote letters to their state senators, representatives and the State Highway Department about the poor condition of some of the roads in the township. They also wrote letters against the bills requiring daylight savings time, prohibiting vehicles from operating on highways at certain times, and requiring eggs to be graded. The demise of the family farm, the farm strike of 1978 and the grain embargo of 1980, the tremendous success of the Illinois Agriculture Trade mission to the Peoples Republic of China in quest of finding markets for farm products, and the new Illinois law eliminating sales tax on farm machinery were discussed during the meetings.

Ever present were the concerns for the lose of wildlife to the building of new highways and homes. It was suggested by the Grange members that selected sites in natural state should be maintained for the preservation of both plant and wildlife which could be accessible only by hike and bikeways. They also discussed the implementation of impact fees on new houses being built in Boone County. Today the LeRoy Community Grange is actively serving the needs of the Boone County community.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Boone County
Grange
LeRoy Community Grange

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1-7	Secretary Books, January 20, 1939-December 5, 1941; January 28, 1944-June 25, 1969
2	1-3	Secretary Books, July 9, 1969-December 11, 1993
	4	Treasurer's Account Book, 1933-1953
	5	Cash/Day Book, 1963-1979
3	1	Cash/Day Book, 1979-1990
	2-4	Dues Account Books, 1933-2000
	5	Dues Receipt Book, 1988-1998