

Inventory of the

Genesee Grange
Coleta, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 102

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Paul Sites, Milledgeville, Illinois donated the Genesee Grange Collection to the Regional History Center on July 1, 1980. Additional records were added to the collection by Mrs. Paul Sites on May 14, 2004.

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

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.25
Number of Containers: 3 + 2 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 102

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records document the history of the Genesee Grange No. 1849 of Coleta, Illinois from 1934 through its dissolution in 1979. Although records detailing the first three years of the Grange's existence are missing, minute books (1934-1974) relate the social orientation of Genesee Grange meetings toward relieving the isolation of farming life through group discussion and entertainment programs. A single treasurer's account book (1938-1978) contains financial information on grange expenses for supplies, social activities, and dues. In addition to the Genesee Grange records, a minute book and membership demits of Zion Grange of Savanna, Illinois detailed business and social concerns of that organization from 1963-1972.

Researchers should note a number of other collections held by the Regional History Center which 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), Harmony Grange (RC 108), and the Laura Cooper Collection (RC 44).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Genesee Grange No. 1849, Coleta, Illinois, organized in January 1931. The Coleta Town Hall and member's homes served as monthly meeting places throughout the Grange's history. Primarily a social organization, the Genesee Grange sponsored holiday parties, picnics, dinners, and lectures, and started a Goleta Boy Scout Troop. By 1979 membership declined so low that the members voted to disband. The Zion Grange No. 1934 of Savanna, Illinois formed in May 1963. Similar to the Genesee Grange, this group held its meetings in member's homes, the local V.F.W. Hall, or at Zion School and sponsored various social gatherings. Declining membership forced the organization to disband in 1972.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Coleta (Ill.)
 National Grange
 National Grange. Genesee Grange (Whiteside County, Ill.)
 National Grange. Zion Grange (Carroll County, Ill.)
 Savanna (Ill.)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1-5	Genesee Grange: Minute Book, 1934-1974
	6	Treasurer's Account, 1938-1978
2	1	Zion Grange: Minute Book, 1963-1972
	2	Membership Demits, 1972

ADDENDUM

	3	Genesee Grange: Minute Book, 1975-1979
	4	Quarterly Reports, 1960-1979
	5	Dues Account Books, 1931-1976
	6	Roll Book, 1931-1940
Oversize	2 volumes	Scrapbooks, 1951-1952
Oversize Drawer 13, Folder 13		Charter, April 1, 1931
	7	Zion Grange: Incorporation Papers, 1963
3	1	Quarterly Reports, 1970-1972
	2	Treasurer's Account Book, 1963-1972
	3	Dues Account Book, 1965-1971
	4	Roll Book, 1965-1968