



# Peoria County Genealogical Society

## Finding Aid for

# West End Literacy Club Collection

## SUMMARY INFORMATION

**History or Biographical Information related to collection:** Volunteers found the 4 volumes on a shelf in the PCGS genealogy workroom (2021) with no knowledge of how they came to be donated to PCGS. The books have not been scanned at this time (2021).

**Scope and Content: The West End Literacy Club** was established in January of 1915 as a club for not more than 20 women who lived “in the district West of Western, and North of Seventh, including Heading Avenue”, currently part of West Peoria. The purpose of this club was “to develop the manifold interests of the home, to promote conference and sociability among the women of this community.” Charter members included Elizabeth Abele (Theo,408 Kellogg), Mary Clark (Ray,420 Sherman), Mary Day (B.F.,206 Waverly), Sophie Eilers (Otto,405 W. Moss), Minnie Frye (John,525 Laura), Mary Gibson (Lee,700 Ayres), Tina Kupper (Gus,601 W Moss), Hattie Mohr (Frank,708 Ayres), Fannie Ringness (Henry,623 Heading), Edith Turner (unknown), Rene Wenke (600 Rohman), May Cressey (Chas.,305 Sherman), Nell Cripe (Rolly,123 Alice), and Juia Reichel (Robt., 309 Aiken).

The 4 volumes cover 1915-1950. The books detail the membership for each year often lists spouse names, addresses, and attendance at meetings. Other information in the books include roll, minutes, membership, treasurer reports. The minutes include speakers, other clubs the West End Literacy Club collaborated with, political, educational, and social topics.

**Surnames:** The membership list changed each year, but book one surnames are consistent. Abele, Clark, Day, Eilers, Frye, Gibson, Kupper, Mohr, Ringness, Turner, Wenke, Cressey, Cripe, Reichel, Kupper, Nelson, Meinel, Miller, Smith, Wolfram, Meyer, Vandorn, Allahands, Mohn, Medaris, Armfield, Shoenbeck, Winters

**Access Restrictions:** none. To access this collection, ask the librarian at the Local History/Genealogy Dept. at the Peoria Public Library Main Branch. You will be able to see one volume at a time. You can also prearrange a visit with a PCGS volunteer by using the Contact Us on the website: [peoriacountygenealogy.org](http://peoriacountygenealogy.org).

**Deed of Gift:** none

# CONTENTS LISTING

Folder/Box number	Description
<b>Book 1: 1915-1926</b>	Page 1: Constitution 15 January 1915
Constitution, Roll, Minutes	Page 6: Members on 15 Jan 1915
Surnames: Abele, Clark, Day, Eilers, Frye, Gibson, Kupper, Mohr, Ringness, Turner, Wenke, Cressey, Cripe, Reichel, Kupper, Nelson, Meinel, Miller, Smith, Wolfram, Meyer, Vandorn, Allahands, Mohn, Medaris, Armfield, Shoenbeck, Winters	Page 8: Members 1915-1916 Page 10: Members 1916-1917 with addresses & spouse Page 12: members 1919-1920 with addresses & spouse
	Page 15: minutes 15 Jan 1915 first meeting
Minutes, Treasury report, attendance, member list, constitution	Page 17: Charter Members 24 Feb 1915, club name chosen
	Page 21: First luncheon at Ringness farm 26 May 1915
Other: Proctor Recreation Centre, Peace Delegate at the Woman's Club (p18), Civic Federation, Child's Welfare League, Neighborhood House, YWCA, Diamond Disc/Edison machine (p45), Red Cross, Liberty Loan, Mothers' Club/Whittier School, Mazola Oil demonstration, West Minster Church, Women's Recreation Camp	Page 58: 1917-1918 members, minutes following pages
	Page 84; 1920-1921 Member with addresses, phone, spouse
	Page 92: 1921-1922 Member with addresses, phone, spouse
<b>Book 2 1922-1926</b>	
Constitution, Roll, attendance, treasury reports, minutes, membership	Page 3: Constitution
	Page 10: 1922-1923 membership
	Page 50 1923-1924 membership
	Page 84 1924-1925 membership
	Page 112 1925-1926 membership

Folder/Box number	Description
<b>Book 3 1926-1939</b>	Page 3 Constitution
Constitution, membership, roll, attendance, treasury reports, minutes	Page 10 1926-1927 membership
	Page 17 History of Jubilee College speaker
	Page 18 Zoning speaker
	Page 21 Municipal Tubercular Sanitorium
	Page 44 1927-1928 membership
	Page 70 1928-1929 membership
	Page 1929-1930 membership
	Page 101 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary party
	Page 120 1930-1931 membership
	Page 140 Tribute to Mrs. Elliott (insert)
	Page 154 1932-1933 membership
	Page 176 1933-1934 membership
	Page 194 1934-1935 membership
	Page 208 20 <sup>th</sup> celebration photo from paper insert
	Page 220 1935-1936 membership
	Page 242 1936-1937 membership
	Page 276 1938-1939 membership

<b>Book 4 1939-1950</b>	
Constitution, membership, roll, minutes, treasury reports	Page 6 Constitution
	Page 10 1939-1940 membership
	Page 34 1940-1941 membership
	Page 84 1941-1942 membership
	Page 112 1942-1943 membership
	Page 137-138 missing
	Page 140 1943-1944 membership
	Page 154 Mrs. Budelier 110 Clifton Crt obituary April 1944
	Page 160 1944-1945 membership
	Page 180 1945-1946 membership
	Page 202 1946-1947 membership
	Page 217 Mrs (John) Mary Schmitt obituary March 28, 1947
	Page 222 Mrs Effie J Winters obituary
	Page 224 1947-1948 membership
	Page 248 1948-1949 membership
	Page 259 Mrs. Rena Armfield 121 Clifton Court obituary Jan 6, 1949
	Page 270 1949-1950 membership
	Last entry 25 May 1950

*Created from Society of American Archivists by Kim Hanks, <https://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives/appendix>, recommended by The Archive Lady and reviewed by IL State Archives, January 2019*