

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG2946.AM: Beatrice Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (Beatrice, Neb.)

Records and programs: 1894-1899
Beatrice, Gage County, Neb.
Size: 1 box; 0.25 cu. ft.

BACKGROUND NOTE

The Beatrice Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (known as the Beatrice C.L.S.C.) was originally established as the Beatrice Chautauqua Circle. Although the Chautauqua movement had an earlier presence in Beatrice, Nebraska, the Beatrice Chautauqua Circle held its first formal meeting on September 24, 1894, where Charles F. Rogers was elected President; Dora D. Nickell, Vice-President; Frannie M. Hershey, Secretary; and Nellie E. Porter, Treasurer. The name changed to the Beatrice Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle sometime in 1895.

According to the Beatrice C.L.S.C. constitution, the organization “. . . aims to promote habits of reading and study in history, literature, science and art, to give college graduates a review of the college course, to secure for those whose educational privileges are limited the college graduate’s general outlook upon the world and life and to encourage close, connected, persistent thinking.” The group welcomed “any person of good moral character” who could earn the votes of the majority of members. The Beatrice C.L.S.C. was the local manifestation of a national Chautauqua movement to promote adult education, culture, and intellectual entertainment. Beatrice C.L.S.C. programs featured lectures, musical performances, discussions, readings, vesper services, and an annual banquet.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is arranged in two series: 1) Constitution and minutes and 2) Miscellaneous. The materials relate to the activities and affairs of the Circle.

Series 1 contains three of record books of the Beatrice Chautauqua Circle/Beatrice C.L.S.C., with handwritten constitution, by-laws, attendance records, and meeting minutes, 1894-1899. These bound volumes have various programs, news clippings, and other ephemera attached or tucked in.

Series 2 contains printed matter, news clippings, and announcements. This includes programs from the Beatrice C.L.S.C.’s annual banquet, Beatrice Chautauqua Assembly (Inter-State) materials which predate the founding of Beatrice C.L.S.C., an announcement for a 1907 Beatrice Chautauqua Assembly C.L.S.C. Round Table meeting, and printed matter from other organizations with arguably kindred missions, such as a Women’s Christian Temperance Union quiz card and a Nebraska Epworth Assembly program. Also included are articles about the Chautauqua movement, including an 1898 news clipping with a poem titled, “A Poetical Bouquet,” about Chautauqua’s growth and development; a 1958, Mar. 22, *Hartford Times* article “Enchanted Tent for Naive World,” about Chautauqua history; and two handouts from a 1971

class on "Trends in Adult Education," with bibliographies.

DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Constitution and Minutes

Box 1

Folder

1. Beatrice Chautauqua Circle record book, 1894-1895, including constitution, by-laws, attendance records, and meeting minutes, with 1895 First Annual Banquet program attached
2. Beatrice Chautauqua Circle record book, 1895-1896, including constitution, by-laws, attendance records, and meeting minutes, with 1896 Second Annual Banquet program attached and news clipping pasted in
3. Beatrice C.L.S.C. record book, 1898-1899, including constitution, by-laws, meeting minutes, and announcements, with two versions of the 1899 Fifth Annual Banquet program attached, several news clippings pasted in, a loose song sheet, torn-out pages from 1897 minutes, and torn out 1894-1895 attendance records tucked in

Series 2 - Miscellaneous

4. Beatrice C.L.S.C. Annual Banquet Programs, 1896-1899 and 1901 (2nd-5th and 7th)
5. Beatrice Chautauqua Assembly (Inter-State) program and announcements, 1890; Beatrice Chautauqua Assembly (Inter-State) flyer, 1891; Beatrice Chautauqua C.L.S.C. Round Table announcement, 1907; and Nebraska Epworth Assembly Victory Year program, 1919
6. Newspaper clippings (1898 and 1958), articles from 1971 Adult Education class, and Women's Christian Temperance Union 1899 quiz card (filled out and with notes on the back)

Subject headings:

Adult education -- Nebraska -- Beatrice
Beatrice Chautauqua Assembly
Beatrice Chautauqua Circle
Beatrice Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle
Chautauquas -- Nebraska -- Beatrice

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