

Inventory of the

Bonus Grange
Boone County, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 281

INTRODUCTION

Patricia Huntington of Belvidere, Illinois donated the Bonus Grange records to the Regional History Center on November 13, 2006.

Property rights in the collection belong to 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: 2.25
Number of containers: 5
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 281

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Bonus Grange records date from 1910 to 2002 and include meeting minutes, annual and quarterly reports, membership and treasurer's records, and photographs. The meeting minutes are complete from the Grange's organization in 1910 to its dissolution in 2001 except for the July 1927 through 1932 time period. The information contained in the minute record 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, Women's Activities, Youth, and the Junior Grange. The treasurer's book documents the financial details of the Grange while the dues account books and dues receipt book provides information on membership. Of special interest are the badges, the fan, and the Bonus Grange seal.

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 Bonus Grange was organized on September 27, 1910 by Robert L. Eaton of Elwood with Eugene Frey as Master. Twenty-three people signed an agreement to form the Grange in Bonus Township. The Grange met in the homes of the members until 1917 when they voted to build a meeting hall. The first meeting in the new building was held on December 21, 1917. In 1918, the Grange installed a furnace and carbide lights and built a horse barn to shelter the horses during meetings.

The Ladies Social Hour Club (Bonus Woman's Club) and the Jolly Workers group raised money to purchase curtains, silverware, dishes, sink, and piano for the hall. They also helped raised money to pay the interest on the loan and to help pay off the mortgage.

The Grange raised money by having card parties, serving food at farm sales, having annual turkey dinners, serving chicken dinners, having bazaar consisting of homemade articles, selling broody hens and dozens of eggs, and buying coal by the carload and grease by the bulk to resell them.

Community service was an important part of the Grange. The members bought a chair lift and a wheel chair for 2 young disabled people in Belvidere, worked the Boone County Fair, gave cash donations to the Special Education Program for hearing impaired children of Boone County, made stuffed toys for the Singer Health Center for Christmas gifts for the children, helped clean Larson's Cemetery, and cooked breakfast for the Relay for Life walkers.

By the end of 2001 the Grange was unable to fill the chair position and had not been able to conduct a meeting in full forum for a long time so they voted to disband the Grange at the November 16th meeting. The money left in the treasury was donated to the Boone County Council on Aging (Keenage Center), the Boone County Historical Society, and to the Boone County Fair Board.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Bonus Grange
Boone County
Grange

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	History, 1910-1985	
	2	Dissolution of Bonus Grange, 2001-2002	
	3	Grange Hall Deed and Supply List, 1917	
	4	Anniversaries, 1960, 1985	
	5-8	Minute Record Books, September 27, 1910-June 17, 1927; January 6, 1933-June 22, 1945	
2	1-5	Minute Record Books, July 11, 1945-March 13, 1970	
3	1-4	Minute Record Books, March 27, 1970-February 16, 2001	
	5	Minutes, April 16, 1999-November 14, 2001	
4	1	Annual Reports, 1971-1974	
	2-3	Quarterly Reports, 1950-1963; (1968-1989)	
	4	Treasurer's Book, 1910-1919	
	5	Officer Listings and Expenditures, 1936-1941	
	6	Retailers' Occupation Tax Form, 1961	
	7	Certificate of Change of Registered Agent and Registered Office, Not for Profit, n.d.	
	8	Dues Account Book, 1910-1944, 1968-2001	
	9-10	Dues Receipt Book, 1953-1957; 1976-1993	
	11	Application for Membership, Subordinate Grange, 1952-1959	
	12	State Dues Receipts, 1950-1960	
	5	1	Correspondence, 1952-1998
		2	Annual Programs, 1919, 1922, 1924, n.d.
3		Community Service Contest, Summary Request, (1954-1960)	
4		Home Economics Committee, Schedule and Newspaper Articles regarding Grange Meetings, 1970-1973	
5		Bonus Women's Club, Officer List, Expenditures and Newspaper Articles, 1970-1972	
6		Boone County Fair and Food Account, 1969-1974, 2000	
7		Juvenile Grange No. 31, Minute Record Book, July 30, 1936- April 28, 1939	
8		Certificates and Citations, (1939-1985)	
9		Photographs, 1945, 1980, 2001, n.d. (16 + 1 sheet)	
10		Ribbons and Badges, 1918, n.d. (4)	
11		Grange Centennial Pin, n.d.	
12		"Join the Grange" Fan, 1990 Granges Seal (stored with artifacts)	