

Taylor County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Twentieth Century Club
Rib Lake, Wisconsin 1899 – 2000

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|------|------|-----------|------------------|
| 1899 | Mrs. | John W. | Allard |
| 1899 | Mrs. | T.R. | Begley |
| 1899 | Mrs. | C.F. | Bowman |
| 1899 | Mrs. | Anna H. | Bushey |
| 1899 | Mrs. | A. M. | Corbett |
| 1899 | Mrs. | A. M. | Frederick |
| 1899 | Miss | Myra | Gardner/Gardnier |
| 1899 | Mrs. | Angus | Kennedy |
| 1899 | Mrs. | Jennette | Kennedy Moffet |
| 1899 | Mrs. | Oscar | Lange |
| 1899 | Mrs. | Duncan | Mac Lennan |
| 1899 | Mrs. | W. A. | McLaughlin |
| 1899 | Mrs. | James B. | McMannus |
| 1899 | Mrs. | William | Pringle |
| 1899 | Mrs. | Frank | Timme |
| 1900 | Mrs. | Fred C. | Bailey |
| 1900 | Miss | | Casey |
| 1900 | Miss | Theo | Commentz |
| 1900 | Miss | Jennie | DeGroot |
| 1900 | Mrs. | E. C. | Getchel |
| 1900 | Mrs. | F. C. | Goodnough |
| 1900 | Mrs. | Charles | Heidrick |
| 1900 | Miss | Vinnie R. | Hewitt |
| 1900 | Mrs. | Clement | Kelnhofer |
| 1900 | Mrs. | J.E. | Kennedy |
| 1900 | Mrs. | John J. | Kennedy |
| 1900 | Miss | Tina | kennedy |
| 1900 | Miss | | Lipke |
| 1900 | Mrs. | Louis A. | Rousseau |
| 1900 | Miss | Edith M. | Scott |
| 1900 | Mrs. | Frank | Shepard |
| 1900 | Miss | Delia | Tupper |
| 1900 | Mrs. | Edwin | Van Giesen |
| 1900 | Mrs. | John J. | Vomaestek |
| 1901 | Mrs. | Andrew | Aitkin |
| 1901 | Mrs. | Robert | Aitkin |
| 1901 | Miss | Clara | Calvert |
| 1901 | Miss | Edith M. | Davis |
| 1901 | | Lucius L. | Taylor |
| 1902 | Mrs. | Adon | Allard |
| 1903 | Mrs. | James B. | Aylesworth |
| 1903 | Miss | Cora L. | Hance |
| 1904 | Miss | Catherine | Cameron |
| 1904 | Miss | Clara | Collins |
| 1904 | Mrs. | H.A. | McDonald |
| 1904 | Miss | Inez | Metzer |
| 1905 | Miss | Bessie R. | Foote |
| 1905 | Mrs. | A. J. | Sones |
| 1906 | Mrs. | A. R. | Hyatt |
| 1906 | Miss | Anna | Kress |
| 1906 | Miss | Mamie | McLennan |
| 1906 | Miss | Nellie | Sickler |
| 1906 | Miss | Nellie | Timme |
| 1907 | Miss | Estelle | Janness |
| 1907 | Mrs. | Thyra | Olson Steffek |
| 1908 | Mrs. | C.G. | Wickman |

On January 20, 1899, women assembled in Mrs. C.F. Bowman's hotel parlor in Rib Lake, Wisconsin and organized the Twentieth Century Club. The 16 ladies who joined in 1899 will always be remembered as the charter members. In the beginning, this group was purely a literary club, studying classical literature, poetry, American authors and the U.S. Federal Papers. It was also the social nucleus of the village. In 1900 the club federated with state and district organizations. In 1920, federation with the county led to an increase in civic activity. In 1900 the club founded the Rib Lake Free Public Library and supported it for 100 years. The Club started the manual training department at the high school, assisted by Rev. Stone who donated his services. Milk, graham crackers, and (by 1920) hot lunches were served at school by T.C.C. members before funding became available for formal programs. At various times the Club petitioned the legislature and men of influence for things they believed in, among them being the right of women to serve on school boards (before 1919) and for a county nurse. They sponsored lecture courses, promoted home talent plays, entertained at holiday social events for children and adults, held progressive dinners, supported women's colleges, women's right to vote, veteran's hospitals and homes, tree planting, and child health clinics. The activities they supported and worked for include almost anything you can imagine being of importance to women – including getting action on a public rest room at the village hall for shoppers and cleaning up muddy streets. Of course they raised money, had fun, played bridge and schafskopf. After a motion to purchase a sign for the Tannery Walkway with remaining funds, the Club moved to disband on July 21, 2000, having spanned years of the entire nineteen hundreds – the twentieth century.

Was one of your ancestors a member of this or another club of the "movers and shakers" of her hometown? Records of these clubs survive in historical societies, written histories, libraries, estate papers of past secretaries, attics, dumpsters and national club archives. Women's Studies classes at universities study in depth the lives of people as "ordinary" as the rural woman of the Twentieth Century Club. Club minutes, photos and scrapbooks are valuable family and national treasures.

Information taken from "60 Years with the Twentieth Century Club, 1900 – 1960" compiled by Mrs. R.J. Voemastek, Rib Lake, Wisconsin and interviews with Hattie Taylor, Marshfield, and Mrs. Galen Scharer, Westboro, Wisconsin.

submitted by Karen Baumgartner