

Information Sheet

R **Prairie Flower Literary Society (Webb City, Mo.).**
495 **Record book, 1884-1888.**
 One folder, photocopies.

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These are the minutes of meetings and membership lists of the Prairie Flower Literary Society of Webb City in Jasper County, Missouri. The records begin with the bylaws of the club, followed by minutes of meetings beginning with the organizational meeting on 23 December 1884 and continuing through 23 January 1888.

The literary society was organized in the Prairie Flower community, which was then approximately one-half mile from the limits of Webb City, Missouri. The club met in the Prairie Flower church building. The earliest membership roster indicates about forty men and women comprised the club in the first year. In 1886 the club reorganized as the Prairie Flower Lyceum. On 27 December 1887, without comment, the original name reappears in the heading of the minutes. The organization was a debate rather than a literary club, and bylaws adopted in 1884 state as the club's purpose the "free discussion of all subjects." Topics for discussion included the relative pleasures of pursuit over possession, that pride and ambition caused more misery than ignorance and superstition, that ancient times produced greater men than modern times, that the railroad is a detriment to the welfare and prosperity of the poor man, and that the signs of the times indicated the downfall of the nation.

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