



Woman's Christian Temperance Union (Wasola, Mo.) Records (SP0083)

Collection Number: SP0083

Collection Title: Woman's Christian Temperance Union (Wasola, Mo.) Records

Dates: 1957-2023

Creator: Hicks, Viola Byerley, 1892-1982

Abstract: The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (Wasola, Mo.) Records consist of photocopies of organizational records, correspondence, literature, and member notes of the Missouri Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Wasola chapter. The records also contain the research files of Dr. Kathryn Ledbetter and her related article for the *Ozark County Times*.

Collection Size: .3 cubic foot
(6 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Woman's Christian Temperance Union (Wasola, Mo.) Records* (SP0083); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Kathryn Ledbetter on April 5, 2023 (Accession No. SPA0117).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union can be found in the following collections:

[John A. Blackwell Papers](#), (C3732)

[Woman's Christian Temperance Union \(Columbia, Mo.\) Minute Book](#), (C0262)

[Woman's Christian Temperance Union \(Auxvasse, Mo.\) Records](#), (C0446)

[Woman's Christian Temperance Union, West Plains, Missouri Records](#), (R0116)

Processed by: Processed by Haley Frizzle-Green, April 10, 2023

Historical Note:

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) organized in Cleveland, Ohio, in November 1874. The group campaigned for temperance, prohibition, labor laws, prison reform, and suffrage. The first W.C.T.U. chapter in Missouri was organized in Hannibal in 1882, with the first Missouri state convention meeting in Carthage in 1886. On January 8, 1891, the first Ozark County, Missouri, chapter was organized in Bakersfield. In May of 1891, Mattie Tyree, Lizzie Smith, Effie Lester, Susie Nichols, Rachel Tyree, and Mattie Smith started a Gainesville, Missouri, chapter. The exact date for the organization of the Wasola, Missouri, chapter is unknown, however, they were active during the 1940s to the 1960s. Today, there are no active chapters of W.C.T.U. in Missouri.

Viola (Byerley) Hicks was born January 20, 1892, at Almartha, Missouri. Her parents were Marion Byerley and Sarah Case. Viola married Clarence E. Hicks on July 3, 1915, at Wasola. The couple owned and operated the Wasola "Y" Store, located at intersection of Highways 5 and 95, for 41 years. Viola was very active in women's clubs, including the W.C.T.U. She was president of the W.C.T.U. Wasola chapter, as well as the state recording secretary and the state director of the Youth Temperance Council. Viola died on April 30, 1982, in Ava, Missouri. In February of 2023, Viola's granddaughter, Dr. Kathryn Ledbetter, wrote an article for *Ozark County Times* detailing the history of W.C.T.U. in Ozark County and Viola's role in the organization.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into six folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photocopies of organizational records, correspondence, and literature of the Missouri Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.), Wasola chapter. The organizational records consist of financial papers and society meeting records. The correspondence contains letters to and from Viola Hicks while she was secretary for the organization. The literature folder includes publications for W.C.T.U. members, such as instructions on how to organize a local chapter, as well as copies of *The Promoter* newsletter. The collection also contains Youth Temperance Education Week records, including Proclamations signed by Missouri Governors, James T. Blair and Warren E. Hearnes, and promotional handouts.

Viola Hicks' notes consist of personal activities of Hicks while she was secretary for W.C.T.U. between 1962 and 1965. Folder six includes Dr. Ledbetter's research and a copy of the article she wrote for *Ozark County Times* in February 2023. The majority of research consists of newspapers articles related to W.C.T.U. activities in and around Ozark County, Missouri.

Container List:

- f. 1 Organizational records, 1961-1972

- f. 2 Correspondence, 1960-1967
- f. 3 Literature, 1961-1985, no date
- f. 4 Youth Temperance Education Week, 1957-1967
- f. 5 Viola Hicks' notes, 1962-1965
- f. 6 Article and research, 2023, no date

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