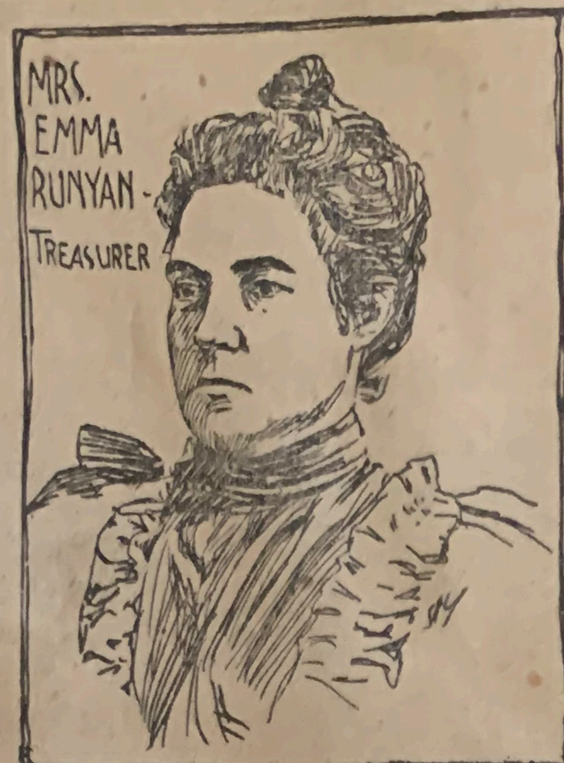
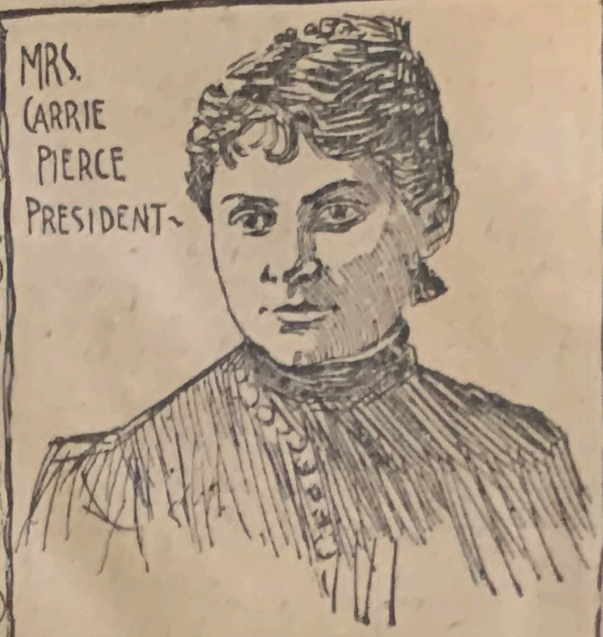
Mrs. R. T. Pierce.....1896-1898

Literature and Art, Science and Education,
Music and Miscellaneous Topics.













OFFICERS OF SCOTT CLUB OF SOUTH HAVEN, MICH., AND THE CLUBHOUSE.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1897.

THESE ARE NEW WOMEN.

CLUB WOMEN OF SOUTH HAVEN, MICH., BUILD A HOME.

One Hundred and Twenty-nine Fair Members of Scott Club Establish a Precedent for Their Metropolitan Sisters Across the Lake—The Beautiful Stone Clubhouse One of the Show Places of the Town—Sketch of the Club and Its Officers.

IN these days of women's clubs and the vigorous talk in Chicago about a clubhouse for all the clubs, perhaps it would be an encouragement to the promoters of the enterprise to know that it has been possible for women to build a clubhouse in other places, and Chicago women cannot be behind a little country club in energy and enterprise.

The Scott club of South Haven, Mich., is one of the show places of the resort. No one can go there without having it pointed out on the first drive with pride by some of the citizens. It is as handsome as a church, is built on a corner, the handsomest kind of a situation, and is entirely built of rough Bedford stone—is artistic in shape and general appearance and is surmounted by a lookout tower. The beautiful shade trees which surround it add to its appearance as well.

It will hold several hundred people, although the membership of the club itself is exactly 129. Whenever there is any open meeting or entertainment given there the whole town and surrounding fruit growers attend. Indeed, the membership of the club contains the names of the wives and daughters of many of the fruit farmers, as well as those of the tradespeople and professional men of the place. The fittings of the interior are entirely of oak, hand finished, and the furnishings are of the same pretty wood.

Friends Give Windows.

The club has had many friends even outside of South Haven. A friend from Brooklyn, Mr. James H. Bates, made a gift of a Scott window, which contains a portrait and coat-of-arms of the author, which makes a very valuable decoration, while the citizens of the village contributed another $200 for a Longfellow window, which also contains the American coat-of-arms and colors. These windows are both most beautiful and were made in Innsbruck, Austria, on special orders. The building, as a whole, including furnace and the two handsome mantels, cost the club between $5,000 and $6,000, all of which is now paid except $1,600.

The building is arranged with three floors, the banquet hall and kitchen below, the assembly and library rooms on the main floor, and cloakrooms over entrance on third floor. The furnishings they consider as being quite incomplete, although $400 has already been spent for them.

The chief business of this club, aside from its regular routine work, is the establishment of a fine reference library, which is open to everybody. It contains already about 500 volumes, all of which are good, solid reading—no fiction. This library is the joint property of the Scott club and the Literary society of South Haven, to whom the use of the clubhouse is given for a consideration. This last-named organization is composed of gentlemen as well as ladies, and among their number are two Dyckman brothers, who helped materially in the founding of the library, while a friend of theirs, Mr. James H. Bates of Brooklyn, who also gave the Scott window, presented the library with a complete edition of British poets, together with several private publications of his own travels. His picture also adorns one of the walls. The rest of the library is composed of histories, books of travel, art, poetry, and scientific works, as well as all kinds of biographies and similar compilations, and works for reference.

How Scott Club Was Organized.

The Scott club was organized by a small coterie of ladies who constituted a small circle of neighbors, meeting together with their knitting, and embroidery, and sewing, just to be sociable. Some of their number were fond of reading, and they concluded to read Scott's historical novels, hence the name. The reading did not interfere with the knitting very much, as they took turns. From these novels their interest grew in the history of the times of which they treat, and so they added contemporary history, which branched out into general history and travels up to date. Of course these things naturally broadened until all the topics of interest of the present day are included in their yearly calendar.

As their membership grew it became impossible to meet in their own homes. There was no hall which was pleasant, churches are conservative about having anything outside of religious services in their sacred precincts, and so some enterprising member suggested a club home. This was an exceedingly popular idea, and enthusiasm

spread at once. Lots were cheap, and soon they owned this corner lot on which the clubhouse now stands. The whole town and surrounding country sympathized with them in their determination to have a home of their own, and subscriptions poured in even from non-members, as it is no doubt a credit to the place to have such a building. The members themselves have done everything as individuals in the way of keeping resorts for the city people and raising delicious peaches for their delectation, while the club as a whole has left no stone unturned to raise the needful cash to pay for the building. The club has been run on purely business principles from the start of this new enterprise, and the present President, Mrs. R. T. Pierce, possesses tact and an amount of eloquence which have been of great financial value to the club. In the management of the club she is ably assisted by her other officers, who are as follows:

First Vice President—Mrs. Cornelia Dewey.
Second Vice President—Mrs. Alta Bixby.
Secretary—Mrs. Lucia Ludwig.
Financial Secretary—Mrs. Jennie Elkenberg.
Treasurer—Mrs. Emma Runyan.

Outside Work of Members.

That these women stand for intellectual, scientific, and liberal culture, as expressed in their by-laws as their object, is well proved by their standing in the community aside from their club work. For instance, Mrs. Ludwig and Mrs. Bixby are both members of the Board of Education. Mrs. Ludwig is secretary of four other organizations, including the Board of Education, Woman's Relief Corps, W. C. T. U., besides being a member of the Eastern Star Lodge and Ladies of the Maccabees, and is now interesting herself in the organization of a county federation of clubs and organizations. Mrs. Pierce is a member of most of these same organizations, besides being widely known in her musical connections, being first soprano of a ladies' quartet, of which three other ladies of the club are the remaining members: Mrs. Runyan first alto, Mrs. Elkenberg second soprano, and Mrs. Monroe second alto. This quartet is in great demand in the southern part of the peninsula.

Their program for the coming year includes art and literature, science and education, music and composers (including their history), social and miscellaneous, current events.

Among the miscellaneous will be the annual banquet, which occurs at the closing of the year's work, also a midwinter banquet and a midsummer picnic.

They have rented the assembly room for Sunday services to the Immanuel Baptist society, which is a split from the First Baptist Church.

The social affairs are the principal feature of the club life, and having aided materially in reducing the indebtedness, which is the chief object of the club just at present. For this purpose lecture courses, bazaars, and entertainments are given frequently and patronized generously by everybody in the vicinity. In fact, the Scott club is the social center of this small city.

A Marshall furnace, which had been in use but three years, was bought from the Citizens Bank. Fortunately for the ladies, the furnace, which originally cost $150.00, proved not large enough for the bank building and was therefore secured for the Club on payment of $50.00 First in use Oct 27th 1896



Mrs.A.S.Dyckman, President of the small Reading Circle which later grew into The Scott Club.



Mr. A.D.Dyckman, a local poet of no mean merit, whose poems brightened many Scott Club programs.

Mrs.Dyckman recited many of Mr.Dyckman's poems at different programs of the Club.

The following poem "Sweetest and Saddest" from the pen of Mr. Dyckman was read by Mrs. Dyckman on a "Burn's" afternoon at the Club.

SWEETEST AND SADDEST.

O Poet Burns
"Wha rightly learns
Frae thine example merry
'ill see the harms
Thou'stveil'd wi' charms
That lurk within the sherry.

O Bard sae sweet
"It gars me greet"
That ane sae blithe and cannie
Sae apt to feel
For brithers weel
Shall bring ae grief to any.

If lowlie lie
The flow'rs and die
Grim ruin o'er them canter
Shall then the glass
Red brimming pass
To frink wi' Tam O Shanter?

O Bardie sweet
Wi' lithesome feet
The mount o'song o'er skipping
Or where thou sit
The crowning wit
Dost come to Earth e'er tripping?

LO wreck of home!
Lo drunkards' doom!
Low lying in his pladdie
Drop ae soft tear
On his sad bier
Our blithe down-fallen laddie

Thy bow he bent
Thy shaft he sent
To set the table roaring
Oh this is chief
O' our sad grief
O' a' our deep deploring!

May a' wha sip
Wi' passion'd lip
The nectar o' thy verses
Tho' fou wi' glee
Gang unco free
Frae bacchanalian curses

Ensanguin'd wine
O' life divine
That Christ gave consecration
O seize the bowl
And feast the soul
Wi' wine o' inspiration

The hallow'd scene
O' sabbath e'en
Where virtue crown'd the vassal
And lowlie praise
Had pow'r to raise
The cot aboon the castle

And Ilka plea
'Gainst tyranny
That plucks the prize frae labor,
And holds in awe
Afore the law
Wi' deadly gun and sabre

The words o' might
For manly right
Frae peasant bosom springing
That struck the lyre
Wi' rithmic fire
And set the Warle to singing

These grace thy name
Wi' deathless fame
O Bard sae blithe and cannie
And yet I grieve
Thy lines sho'ld leave
Ae touch o' pain to any.

On invitation of the Coterie Club of Paw Paw, members of eight clubs met at beautiful Lake Cora in the summer of 1895 for an all day meeting with picnic dinner. In the forenoon a pleasant social hour was spent. After dinner, the meeting was called to order and the organizing of Van Buren County Federation of Clubs was accpmplished with Mrs. Elnora Chamberlain elected President.



Mrs. H. E. Dewey



Mrs. W. G. Triece



Mrs. S. P. Wilson



Mrs. J.T.Avery.



Mrs. Julia M. Chase

Mrs. Hattie Monroe



Mrs. W. H. Payne

A Group of Pioneer Scott Club Members.

These ladies were devoted and loyal members during the early life of our Club; their activities extending down to recent years. Mrs. H. E. Dewey, Mrs. W.H.Payne and Mrs.J.T.Avery were members of the little Reading Circle which was the start of our present Club. Mrs. Hattie Monroe, Mrs. Julia Chase, and Mrs. S.P.Wilson were most efficient and helpful members in a literary and also in a financial way. The husbands of these ladies,being members of the Antiquarian and Literary Societies, were as interested in the building of a Club home as were the ladies themselves. Especial mention should be given C.J.Monroe, W.H.Payne, and S. P. Wilson for their great liberality with money, influence and helpfulness during the years of building and paying for our club building.

Mrs. G. D. Carnes.....1898-1899

History - Science - Art - Literature - Music

The varied programs of the year usually opened with quotations given by members appropriate to the topic of the afternoon. Some of the most pleasant and profitable afternoons were devoted to the reading of Shakespear plays; the different characters of the plays being assigned by the ladies in charge to members, each of whom would make a study of the part assigned her for the reading at the coming meeting.

A very successful bazaar of fancy work was held in the enterprize club rooms in December from which the club obtained over $200.00.

On Feb. 7,1899, an evening reception for members, and husbands as invited guests, was held in the club parlors which were bright and beautiful with decorations of plants and flowers. Quoting from the reporter, "At the banquet table, all were fed with such food as the Scott Club provides, whereof a man eateth to discomforting fullness. A short program of music and speeches followed. Mrs. Ramsdell gave a short history of the Scott Club telling of its work and the improvements made; giving due credit to H.H.Engel, who donated his work in decorating the walls and ceiling. Mrs. W.G.Packard and Mrs. Emma Avery, accompanied by Mrs. Lillian Eaton, sang "Golden Days." W.H.Hurlbut gave a history of the Antiquarian Society and briefly of the three societies in erecting the building, saying, "surpassed by none in a town of this size, of which we are all proud." The program closed with a solo by Mrs. W.G.Packard, whose singing never fails to please."

Pastor Brower introduced a sort of supplement to the program by remarks expressing the gratification of men in being the husbands of Scott Club ladies. Time was when the woman was the wife of - but in this era the man is honored, etc.

In Mrs. Ramsdell's speech she stated that during the past two years one debt of $197.00 had been paid; also interest $224.09; repairs on roof $37.00; carpet $66.00; and material for decorating the wall $70.00. There were several gifts to the ladies through the past year. Mr. Selkirk gave fixtures for lights in basement of building. A gift of our clock was given by Mr.E.J.Hill in December. Mrs. Triece donated $5.00; D.C.Leisenring gave another $5.00. and Mr. E. A. Hartman gave $25.00 to help in the repairing.

Mrs. M. H. Bixby.....1899-1901

AMERICA:-- History - Travel - Literature - Miscellaneous

Through the years 1899 to 1901, it appears that very little except the literary work of the Club was accomplished. The subjects for study were well chosen and shows the good judgment of the Program and Arrangement Committees. During these early years of the organization, the Critic was considered a most valuable member and it was conceded that the benefits derived from the Critic's report more than balanced the annoyance caused by their crticism. Through these years our financial problems claimed a large share of the ladies' time and efforts. A three days bazaar was held in December of each year. To prepare for this, many special work meetings were held through the fall and early winter. The committees in charge secured the Enterprize Club rooms in which to hold the bazaar and with the help of kind friends no pains was spared to make the several boothes attractive. Dinners and suppers were served during these three days' sale. Receipts from all sources amounted to $188.08 in 1899 and to