

# Up for Debate:

## The Significance of Debate Topics in Clio, The Women's Literary Society of McKendree University

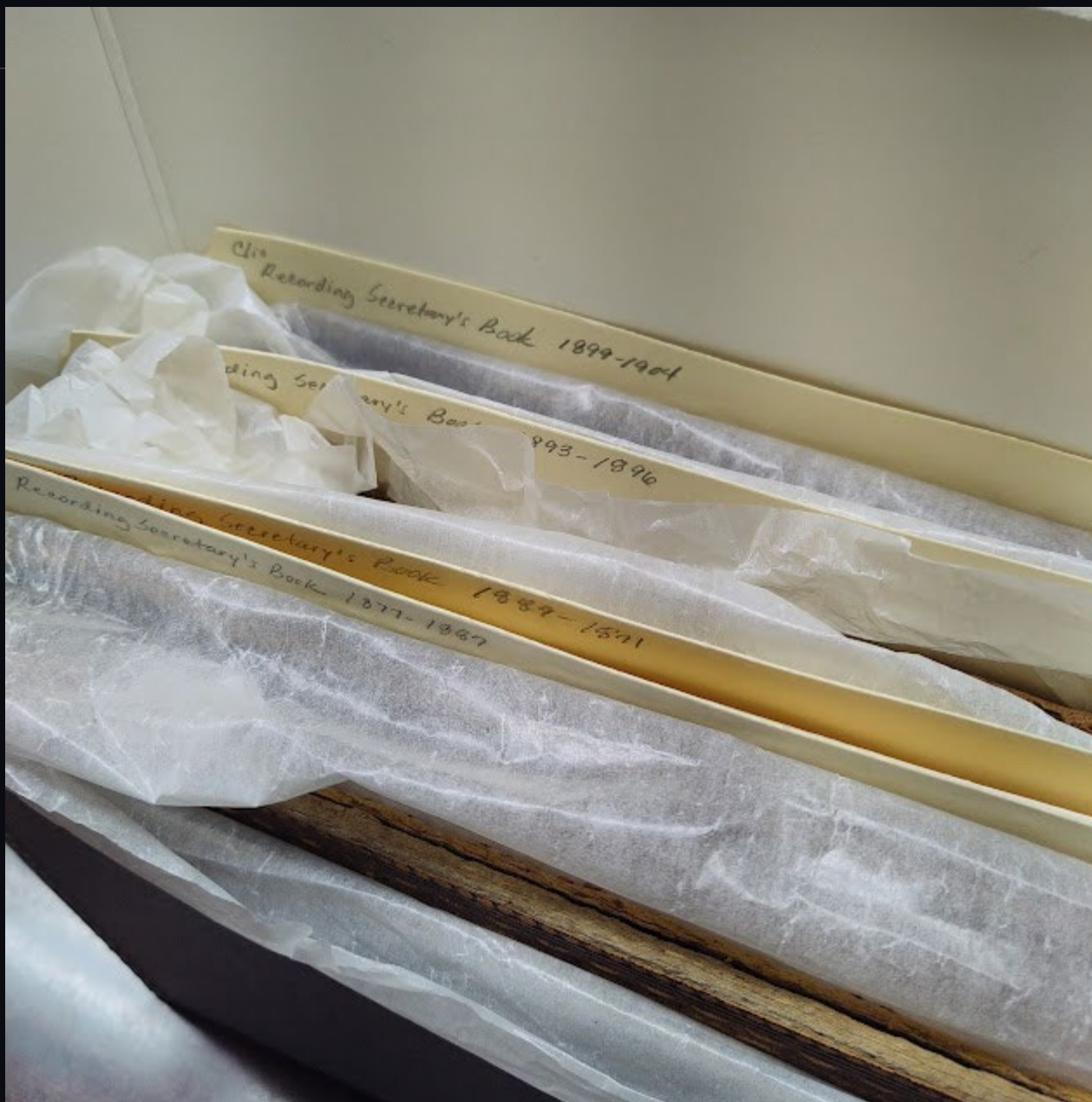
Dr. Shelly Lemons

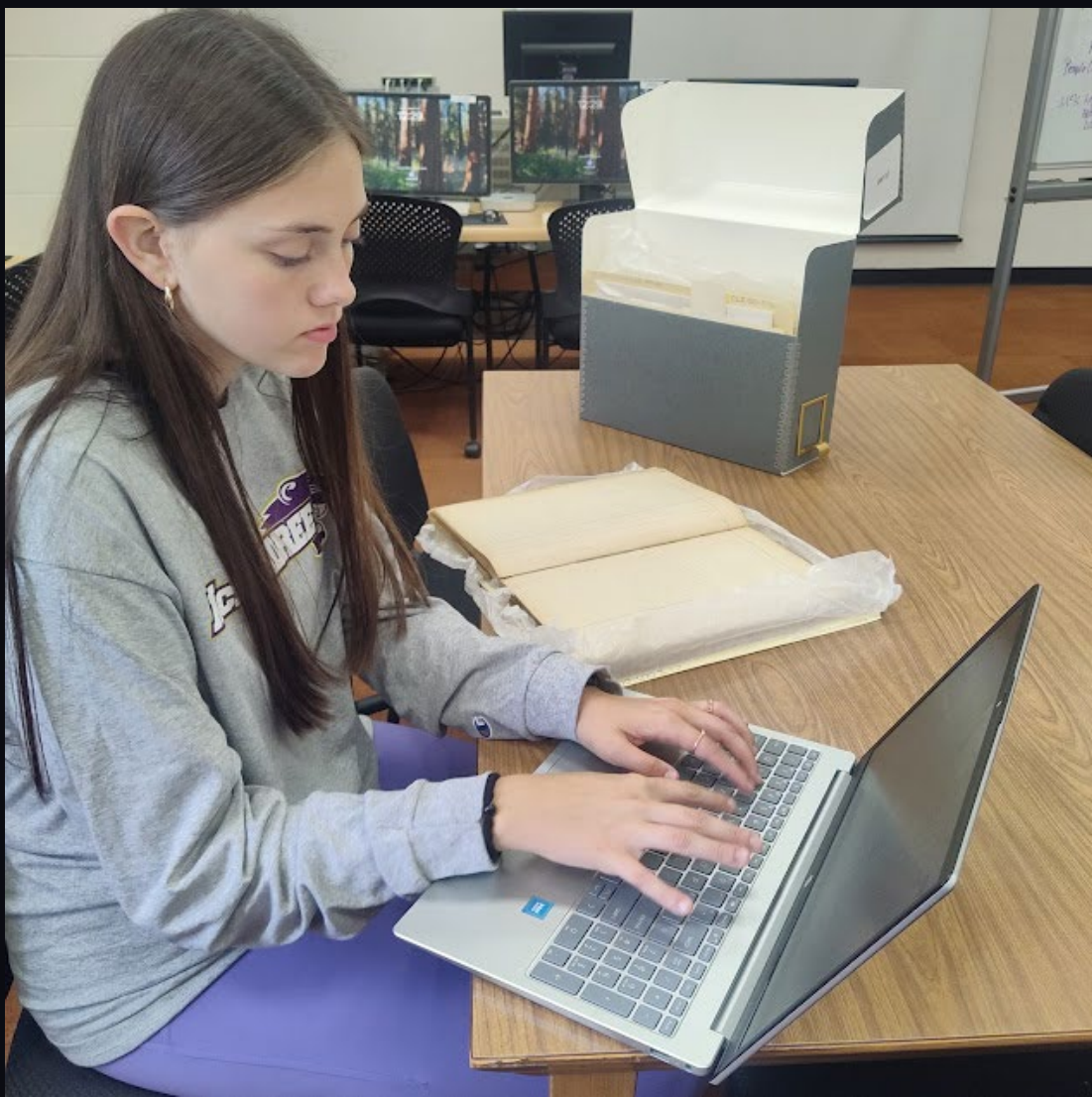
Professor of History

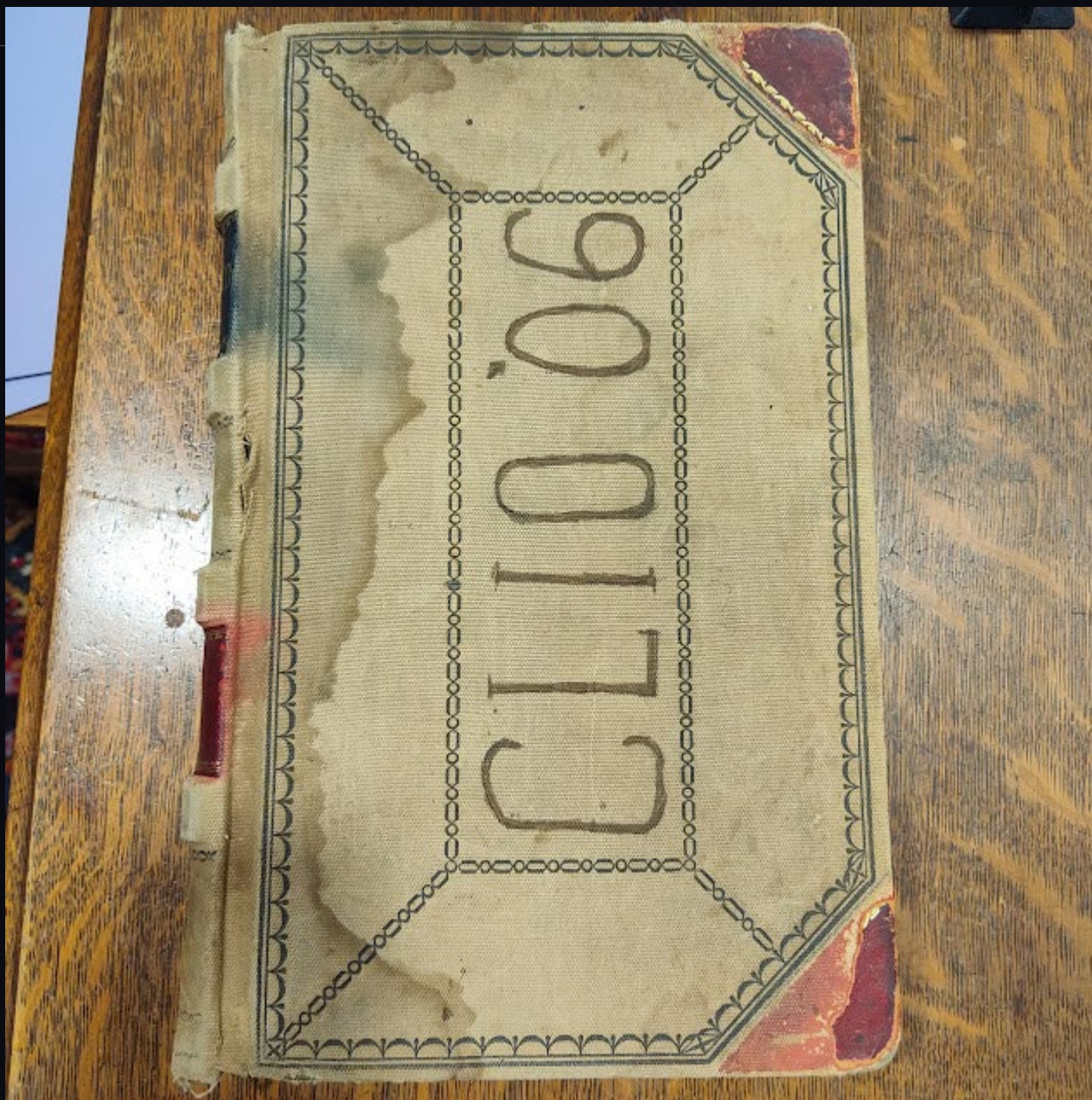
McKendree University

October 2, 2026



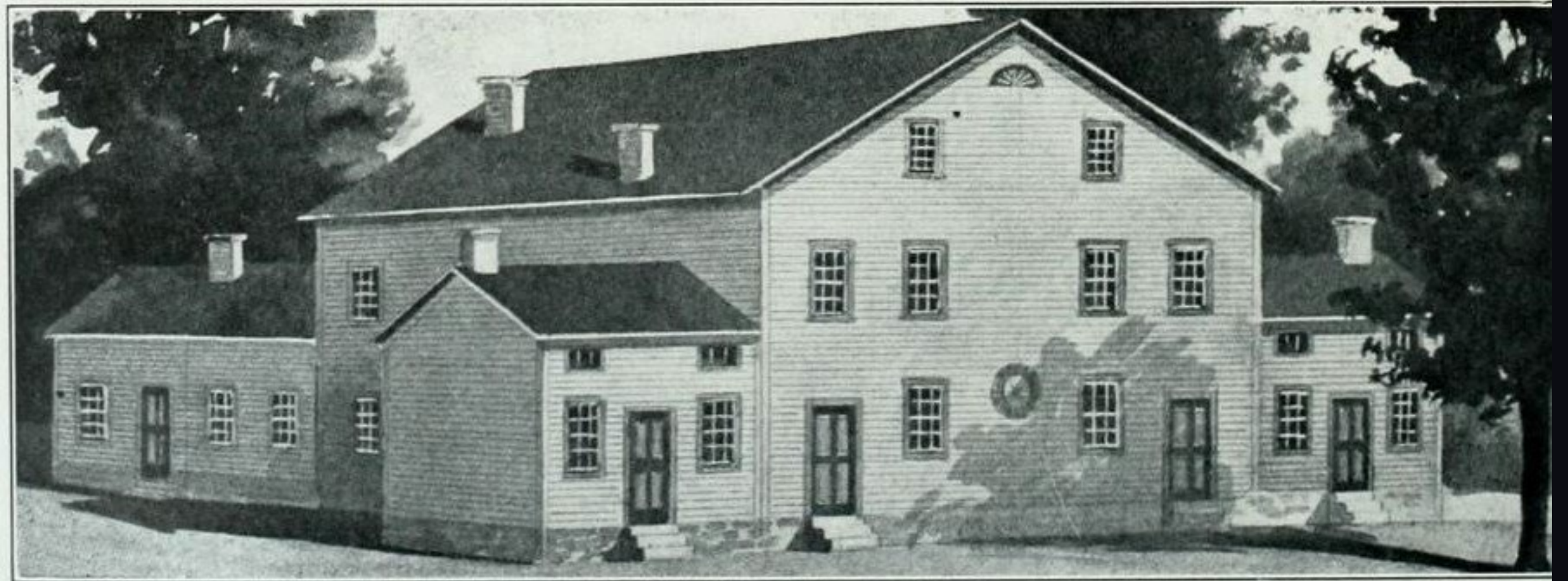






Clio Secretary's Record Book  
Number 3

# Original frame building of McKendree College



# PREPARATORY

Elizabeth Gray Gilbert  
*Jersey City, N. J.*

Nellie Frances Raymond  
*Lebanon*

Virginia Laura Thatcher  
*Lebanon*

Harriet Floyd  
*Lebanon*

Virginia Leonora Roberts  
*Lebanon*

Elvira Robinson  
*Cottonwood Grove*

Jeannette Ross  
*Cottonwood Grove*

Amelia Frances Slayback  
*Hillsboro*

Olive Mary Slayback  
*Hillsboro*

Maggie Elizabeth Gilbert  
*Summerfield*

Louisa Alice Vollintine  
*Cottonwood Grove*

## EXHIBITION OF THE Lebanon Female Institute.

### ORDER OF EXERCISES.

#### PRAYER.

##### MUSIC.

|                               |   |   |   |   |                 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| INTRODUCTORY,                 | . | . | . | . | M. DAVIS.       |
| Choice of Residence,          | . | . | . | . | S. F. COFF.     |
| Crossing the Rubicon,         | . | . | . | . | M. J. BISSSELL. |
| Remember Me,                  | . | . | . | . | M. E. RANKIN.   |
| The Windings of Life's River, | . | . | . | . | M. C. MOORE.    |
| Sunbeams and Shadows,         | . | . | . | . | J. R. OSBORN.   |
| DIALOGUE—Sunflower and Lily,  | . | . | . | . | M. STUART.      |
|                               | . | . | . | . | S. M. OSBORN.   |

##### MUSIC.

|                                              |   |   |   |   |                 |
|----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Life's Voyages,                              | . | . | . | . | M. V. WRIGHT.   |
| Peace versus War,                            | . | . | . | . | N. A. THOMPSON. |
| Influence of Literature on Female Character, | . | . | . | . | M. S. WOOLLAUT. |
| Voice of History,                            | . | . | . | . | V. B. PADON.    |
| Tribute to Labor,                            | . | . | . | . | M. J. CLAYTON.  |

##### MUSIC.

#### READING OF PAPER.

##### MUSIC.

|                              |   |   |   |   |               |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| The Soul is Never Satisfied, | . | . | . | . | A. V. HYPES.  |
| Uses of Adversity,           | . | . | . | . | S. A. DENEEN. |
| Mind has a Destiny,          | . | . | . | . | A. S. HORSER. |
| VALEDICTORY,                 | . | . | . | . | C. M. HYPES.  |

##### MUSIC.

#### BENEDICTION.

"Literary Gem" Print.

Reduced facsimile of programme presented by the pupils of the  
Lebanon Female Institute, 1858

# FRESHMAN

Ellen Sophronia Allyn  
*Lebanon*

Georgiana Floyd  
*Lebanon*

Adeline Floyd  
*Lebanon*

Eliza Maria Hypes  
*Lebanon*

Kate Leonora Parker  
*Lebanon*

Carrie Hannah Thrall  
*Bone Gap*

# SOPHOMORES

Mary Waity Adams  
*Granger, Minn.*

Martha Jane Toney  
*Lebanon*

# SENIOR

Edith Maria Flint  
*Lebanon*



EDITH FLINT (THRALL)

First woman graduate

Constitution and By-Laws of Clonians  
Literary Society

Preamble

For the purpose of promoting  
our advancement in useful knowledge  
and qualifying ourselves for future  
life we do adopt the following Constitution  
and By-Laws.

Constitutions.

Art 1<sup>st</sup>

The name of this association shall  
be The Clonians Literary Society

Art 2<sup>d</sup>

The object of this Society shall  
be the improvement of its members  
in General Literature and Music  
both instrumental and vocal.

Elionian Entertainment.

"VIRTUTE ET LABORE."

Friday Eve'g, May 6th, 1870.

PROGRAMME:

PRAYER.

MUSIC.

SALUTATORY.

"Heavenly Father!"

Lebanon.

CARRIE A.

Alfred.

"das deutsche Mährchen."

THECLA M. BERNAYS.

Lebanon.

MUSIC.

Contravertial.

ESSAYS.

Misses ALLEN & GILBERT.

SUBJECT.

"What are the Conditions of Progress in Art?"

WEALTH & GENIUS.

MUSIC.

ESSAY.

"Say not Good Night,

But in some brighter Clime

Said me Good Morning."

JENNIE L. ROBERTS.

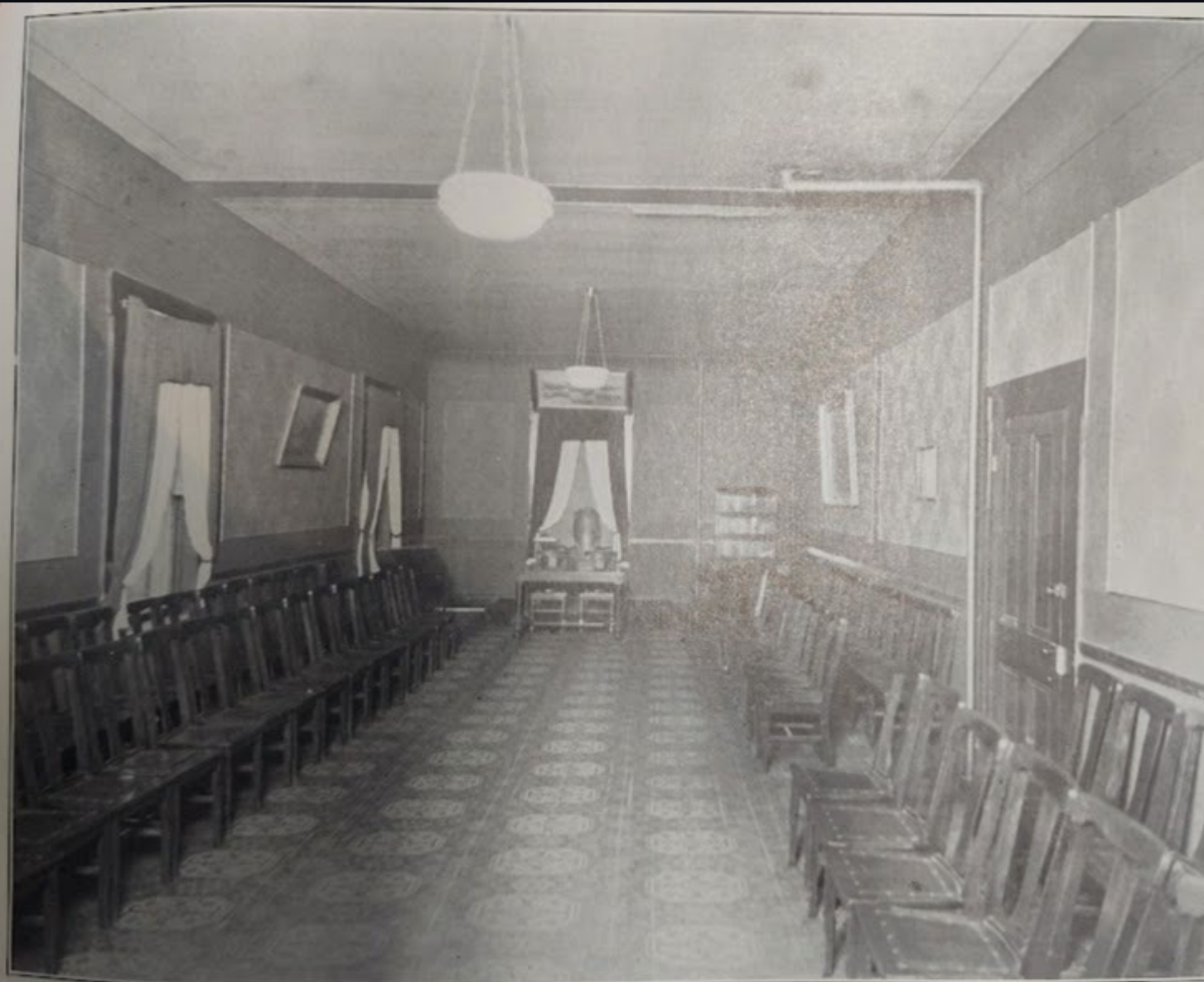
Lebanon.

MUSIC.

"O Summer Night."

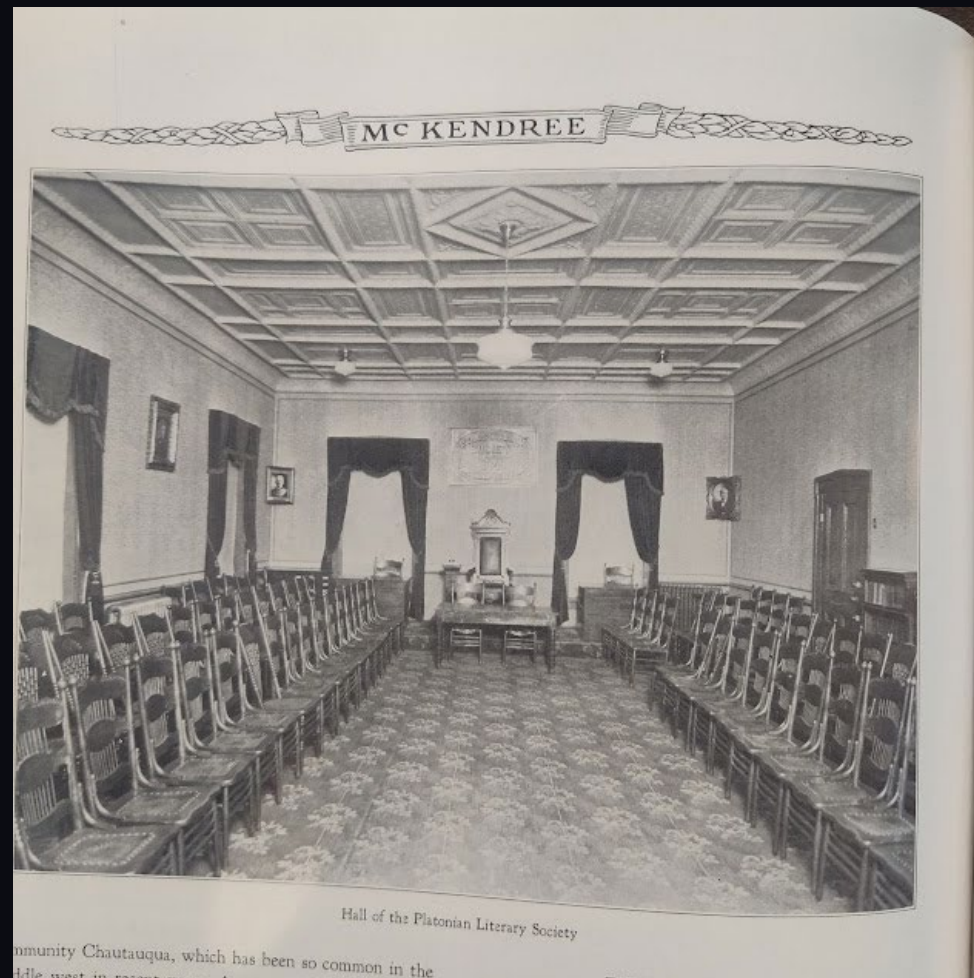
BENEDICTION.

# Clio Hall



CLIO HALL

# Philo and Plato Halls



## Reading and Education:

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1879—Newspapers produce more harm than good.

1879—Reading fiction is injurious to the mind

1882—Novel reading is beneficial.

Educating men and women together is beneficial to both groups:

1879

1880

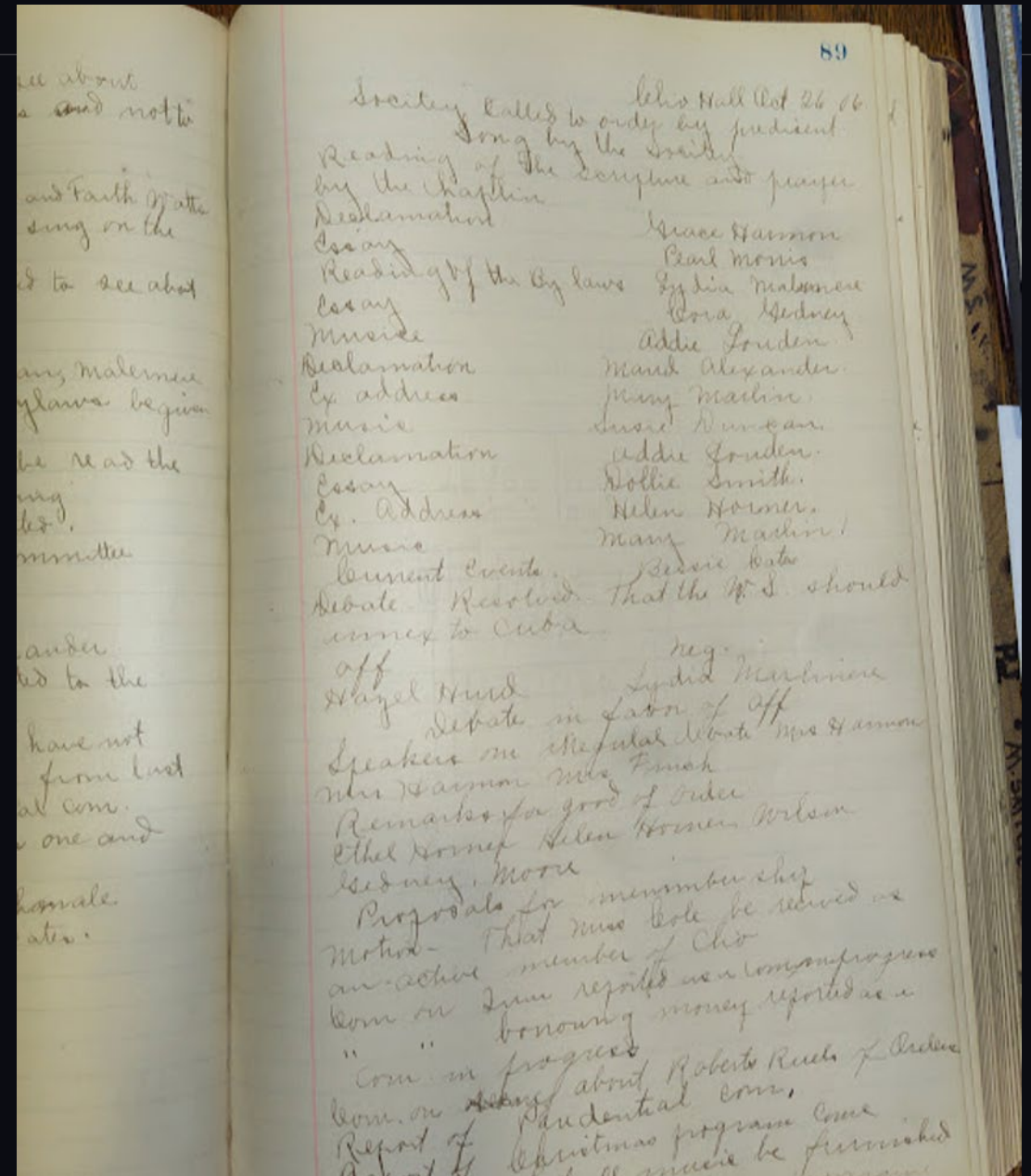
1883

1889

# International Affairs: Expansion and War

1905—Expansion is advantageous  
to the country

1905—Cuba should be annexed by  
the US



---

1882—War is never the answer.

1890—Mexico was justifiable in their war with the United States.



CLIO QUARTETTE 1905  
Enola Kiesling Thrall, Elsie Bradley Sager  
Blanche Fox Wynn, Dora Dougherty Pfeffer

1906—The Panama Canal will be a financial failure.

1906—Lands west of the Mississippi River will become more valuable than those east of that point.

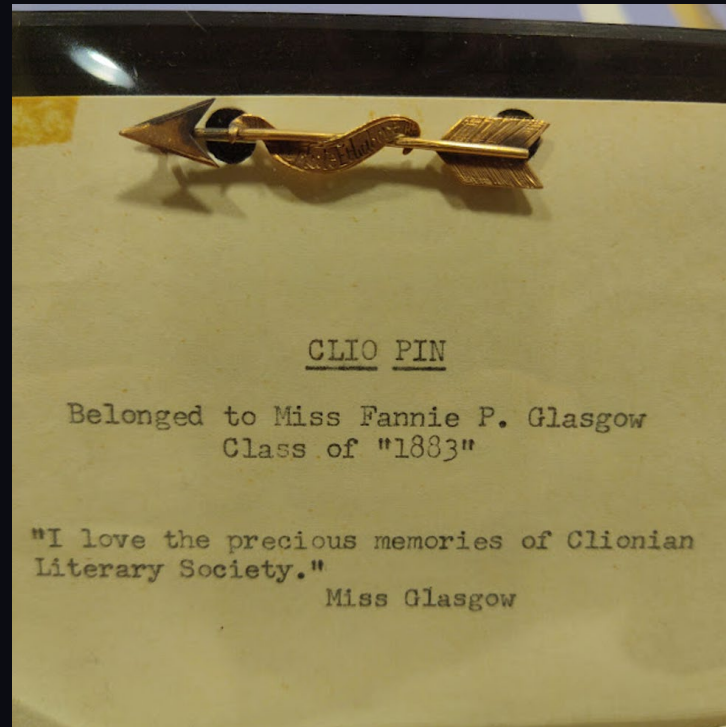
1906—Another bridge is necessary across the Mississippi River.

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1883—Reward is a greater incentive to labor than fear.

1889—Inventions improve the condition of the working class.

1905—Modern inventions are a menace to the laboring class.



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Debates focused on:

Native American land claims  
(1882-3)

Immigration restriction  
(1888, 1914)

treatment of minorities  
(1890)

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Equal Pay:

1882, 1888

Women's Suffrage:

1879, 1881, 1888, 1907



Clonian Literary Society in 1905



Rec.  
Music.  
Essay  
Current Events

Rec.  
Add.  
Essay  
Music

Debate. —

Res. that secret organizations in colleges and universities should be encouraged.

Aff.

Mary Sabine

Debate decided in favor of affirmative.

Remarks for the good order. Lydia Malernee, Ethel Horner, Albert Farmer and Mary Sabine. The name of Miss Inez Piper was proposed & accepted.

Kate Horner

At the following term officers were elected. Kate Horner, Treasurer, Maudie Wallace, Librarian.

Change of officers.

Report of Open Session Com. Ethel Horner appointed assistant janitor.

Motion made and carried to pay Mr. Perkins

Hattie Lathrop  
Lydia Malernee.  
Emma Carr.  
Maudie Wallace.  
Lora Bonchert.  
Effie Gorset.  
Jessie Huckle.  
Sadie McBride.  
Faith Abate.

Neg.  
Gertrude Perkins.



CLARK HALL



Three old Clionians  
Thekla Bernays Agnes Pace Alice Radefelt

Open Session - Feb. 13, 14

Clio Hall.  
meeting called to order by president. Song by  
the society. Scripture Reading & prayer by  
chaplain.  
Roll call  
Declamation — Ethel Henapp.  
Essay — Ruby Rice.  
Declamation — Katherine Monica.  
Music — Ruth Behymer.  
Extemporaneous add. — Lillian Jones.  
Declamation — Pauline Bachman.  
Essay — Marion Waggoner.  
Declamation — Grace Robinson.  
Essay — Emma Berry.  
Declamation — Marg. Smith.  
Current Events — Marg. Brainard.  
Debate.

Resolved that students who persist in wasting  
their time and money while in college should  
be expelled.

Affirmative. — Berenice White.

Negative. — Pearl Johnson.

Debate decided in favor of the affirmative.

Election of officers.

President — Berenice White.

Vice President — Nell Loy.

Ass. Sec. — P. Johnson.

Cor. Sec. — Lillian Jones.

First Critic — Ruby Rice.

Second Critic — Nell Jones.

Motion made and carried that <sup>correspondence</sup> ~~her~~  
correspondence be accepted.

Motion to adj.

Sec. Ruth Behymer.

Clio Hall.  
meeting of  
the society.  
Roll call  
Essay  
Extempor.  
Essay  
Extempor.  
Essay  
Extempor.  
Current  
Debate.  
Resolved  
that me  
Affirma  
" "  
Negative.

Debate.  
Change  
Motion  
cast a  
as far  
Motion



P. Lucas, C. Schnyder, R. Schmalenberger, H. Boer, L. Doolan, M. Mangum, C. Williams, A. Martin, M. McClain, D. Wallis, M. Koen, K. Rife, L. Healey.  
 A. Wood, A. Awanias, L. Jacoby, H. Sengesser, V. Whitlock, I. Cohen, M. Hoar, D. Dainton, M. Sanders, S. Schmedake, B. Moore, E. Walling, E. Hall.  
 M. Snow, E. Hoerting, Mildred Beullemann, R. Hobig, E. Clements, M. Wilkin, P. Burge, M. Kershner, M. Harmon.

Speech by the new President.  
Cliff Hall, January 13, 1911.

Dear Sister Cliss

It is with feelings of timidity that I assume  
the office you have so kindly elected me to.

Allow me to thank you for the honor you have  
conferred on me and I assure you I will try faithfully  
to perform my duties to the best of my ability.  
And I hope that every one of you will cooperate with  
me, for it is an old but true saying, "where there  
is union there is strength" and as we are all  
here to make the most of our college work it  
behoves us to be loyal workers in our Literary  
Society.

At this the beginning of a new term let us  
each resolve to make it one long to be remembered  
for thorough work, good order, and a kindly feeling.  
And let us remember:

"There is so much good in the worst of us  
and so much bad in the best of us,  
that if all becomes any of us  
Is talk about the rest of us."

Sadie McBride

Up for Debate:  
The Significance of Debate Topics in Clio,  
The Women's Literary Society of McKendree University

In 1869, Edith Flint Thrall and five of her fellow McKendree College classmates founded the Clionian Literary Society. As McKendree's first female graduate and a member of the Class of 1870, Flint Thrall and the group she helped launch brought female students together for fellowship and personal growth. According to the organization's mission statement, the core purpose of Clio was to "help its members reach a high standard of womanhood to become well-rounded individuals. [Clio] stresses sincerity, honor, loyalty, friendship and sisterhood, not only between its members, but towards other students."<sup>1</sup> In compliment to the McKendree College men's societies of Philo and Plato, Clio offered a space for women to express opinions, develop oratory skills, and cultivate leadership.

As McKendree University approaches its Bicentennial Celebration in 2028, a look back at the topics debated by Clio reveal what the young women in the club deemed important in the world in which they lived. Their meetings, sometimes weekly, included time in which Clio members offered reasons to support or reject a particular stance on a topic of discussion. The debate topics are significant because they reflect what the women of Clio deemed important and interesting. Arguing for or against a particular position allowed members to develop skills in public speaking and leadership. Their votes as a group to affirm or reject arguments suggest their views on the world in which they lived.

This project is based largely on the original and handwritten Clio Secretary's Record Books—the oldest dates from 1877—that are housed in the McKendree University Archives in Holman Library. Focusing on the topics and their outcomes, research into Clio debates

from 1877 to 1914 offers a case study for college women's attitudes and responses to contemporary events in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It gives a glimpse into how college women in Southern Illinois saw themselves as educated young women. For this particular paper, I pose three research questions: First, are Clio women "modern" for their time? Second, how do Clio women see gender norms of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries? And finally, how do Clio debates reflect the larger trends in topics of women's history?

Literary interest societies for college men and women tied public service to employment preparation and leadership. Oberlin College in Ohio was first to admit women in a co-educational setting, and they also had the first all-women's literary society, founded in 1834. For McKendree College, the men's literary societies originated about the same time. The Philonian Literary Society was founded in 1837. The Platonian Literary Society followed in 1847.<sup>2</sup> Though Clio's founding was over two decades later, all three groups offered options to satisfy the student body looking for philosophical debates and extracurricular activities.

McKendree College, at its founding in Lebanon, Illinois in 1828, housed a preparatory academy (like a high school) as well as the Lebanon Seminary and the College. Women were permitted to attend for the first seven years. Then in 1835, because the campus lacked housing options for female students, the Lebanon community expressed concerns over women residing in private boarding houses in town. In response, McKendree stopped admitting female students to the institution. After McKendree received its state charter in 1835, women were formally excluded from the student body the following year.<sup>3</sup>

In 1852, an attempt to recruit female students to a teacher training program failed to gain traction with the Board of Trustees. More than a decade later, another appeal to admit women resulted in an 1865 committee appointed to study the proposal. Reverend Joseph Earp represented the majority in the committee that supported women's inclusion in the student body. The Honorable A.W. Metcalf spoke for a small but vocal minority opposed to the change. The controversy became so heated that the decision regarding the readmission of women was postponed yet again.<sup>4</sup>

The controversy surrounding the admission of women to McKendree continued for another three years. In 1866, a committee rejected women's admission; no action was taken by the Board of Trustees. In 1868, the question was tabled. By the end of the year, though, the academic Department of Education was officially established on campus, and McKendree saw an opportunity to recruit female students with the promise of future employment as teachers. As a result, with a 14 to 7 vote, the Board agreed that the readmission of female students was in the best interest of the college.<sup>5</sup>

Twenty women officially enrolled at McKendree in the fall of 1869. After 34 years, McKendree was again co-educational. Eleven students were in the preparatory program (high school), six were freshmen, two were sophomores, and one—Edith Flint—was a senior. Flint, who later married fellow McKendree alum Leonidas Thrall, would become the first woman to complete a degree program at McKendree College. Along with her commencement poem as a member of the Class of 1870, Flint's legacy at McKendree also included being a founder member and first president of the Clionian Literary Society, named after the Greek muse of history.<sup>6</sup>

With their first meeting on December 6, 1869, Clio's charter members included: Edith Flint, Eliza "Pet" Hypes, Carrie Thrall, and the Floyd sisters Adeline, Harriet, and Georgiana. Women of Clio sought to maintain a club that featured debate, conversation, and discourse while avoiding a stigma of serving only as a social club. Clio leaders studied the men's groups of Philo and Plato, modeling their constitution after that of their male peers.<sup>7</sup>

The first official public program was held on May 6, 1870, and it presented the Society to the campus community. Clio members participated in an opening prayer, literature and poetry recitations, music, and original essays. The faculty supported the women and their efforts; and the Board of Trustees was petitioned to assign Clio their own meeting space. The Committee on Literary Societies reported to the Board in 1870:

Resolved, that we recommend the Clonian Society as one of the literary societies of McKendree and that the trustees be instructed to have a separate hall assigned for the use of the said society.<sup>8</sup>

The Board approved the use of half of a room in Bothwell Chapel, the space now known as Circuit Riders. Clio members described the room as having a rough hemp rug, wooden chairs, a wood stove, and coal lamps. By 1874, Clio women petitioned to have more space, and the Board approved the use of the full room, known then as Clio Hall.<sup>9</sup>

The Clonian Literary Society continued to grow over the subsequent decades. They held weekly private meetings for club members along with open sessions, exhibitions, and special events. Often partnering with the men's groups of Philo and Plato, Clio was a recognized component of the McKendree community by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

As members of Clio, women at McKendree participated in debates on topics that ranged from current events to popular opinions to personal choices. Debates were somewhat formal affairs with members assigned to argue for or against a topic, with the group then voting to affirm or negate the debated statement. Common themes in the debate topics included: Women's suffrage, Columbus and his reputation (Clio preferred George Washington over Columbus), and integrated educational opportunities. Dancing and socially acceptable behavior of the sexes were also common debate topics. Clio debaters considered the costs and benefits of war as well as larger philosophical issues of character and virtue.<sup>10</sup> But were they consistent in their decisions? And what does that suggest about their values and beliefs? An examination of the debate topics in Clio secretary record books from 1877 to 1914 suggests that Clio women considered political, economic, and social topics worthy of their debate energies.

The Clio meetings investigated in this study coincide chronologically with an increase in admissions of women into institutions of higher learning across the United States. Debates by Clio members suggested that they took both informal learning and formal education very seriously.

Clio women expressed concerns over what others were reading during the time period studied here. For example, they believed "newspapers produced more harm than good" in their 1879 debate.<sup>11</sup> But over time, they changed their minds about the benefits of fiction. During the May 23, 1879 debate, they deemed reading fiction to be "injurious to the mind." By November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1882, Clio debaters convinced members that novel reading was

beneficial. In 1905, they rejected the idea that excessive reading of literature should be discouraged.<sup>12</sup>

Another area of focus was on the needs and benefits of education. Clio members argued that certain areas of specialized training benefited women and girls. For example, they affirmed that “all girls should be educated in the culinary arts” in their debate held on February 2, 1883.<sup>13</sup> Debates over co-educational opportunities were revisited multiple times during the time span of this study. Debating in 1879, 1880, 1883, and 1889, Clio affirmed that educating men and women together benefited both groups. On April 5, 1889, they declared that co-education was a success.<sup>14</sup>

An opportunity to test that conclusion presented itself seventeen years later. The debate slated for May 24, 1906, questioned the benefits of classical education for those pursuing business leadership. The Secretary’s Record Book minutes reported that the Clio members assigned to the debate were not prepared, so the debate was instead made by members of Plato and Philo who were in attendance. The minutes did not record the results. However, at the November 2, 1906 Clio meeting, female students revived the debate topic and affirmed that “there is benefit of classic education in business affairs.”<sup>15</sup>

As the US gained momentum as a global power in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Clio women considered international affairs in their debates. Territorial expansion as well as wars each received Clonian attention. Territorial expansion was consistently supported. Expansion was deemed advantageous to the country, Clio affirmed in their April 8, 1905 debate. Annexation of territory generally and specifically regarding Cuba also garnered Clio support in 1906.<sup>16</sup>

As for war, the outcomes were mixed. On March 31, 1882, Clio supported Miss Sadie Deneen's argument for the affirmative that "war was never the answer." Just over a year later, debates rejected the necessity of war for civilization. But in less than a decade, Clio women shifted their responses again and supported the resolution that "Mexico was justifiable in their war with the United States" according to the outcome of the May 23, 1890 debate.<sup>17</sup>

While Clio debaters predicted the Panama Canal would be a financial failure at their January 26, 1906 meeting, they were much more optimistic about the benefits of transportation advances within the US. In September, 1906 they suggested lands west of the Mississippi River would become more valuable than those east of that point. A month later, they argued for the completion of a bridge over the Mississippi River into Missouri.<sup>18</sup>

Regarding labor and the workplace, Clio debates affirmed reward was a greater incentive to labor than fear. They agreed inventions improved the condition of the laboring class in 1889, but suggested modern inventions did little to help workers in a debate in 1905. These debates suggest that the rise of the national labor movement at the same time might have altered the ways in which Clio viewed workplace challenges.<sup>19</sup>

As the US moved through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Gilded Age and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century age of Progressive Reform, Clio considered the impacts of history on Native Americans, blacks, and immigrants. They argued for Native American land claims, and even suggested white treatment of Native peoples might exceed the poor treatment of blacks. That was not to say they believed blacks to have been treated fairly. In fact, while they supported citizenship for Native Americans and rejected limits on Japanese

immigration, Clio members also recognized the ill treatment of blacks at the hands of whites in power. In their debate on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1890, Clio resolved that white limitations on blacks restricted the progress of people of color.<sup>20</sup>

As Clio women considered the treatment of minorities in their debates, they also focused on issues surrounding labor compensation and suffrage for women. They supported equal pay for men and women in 1882 and in 1888.<sup>21</sup> They endorsed women's suffrage in 1879, 1881, 1888, and 1907. Illinois as a state extended limited suffrage to women in 1913, making Clio debates very timely in relation to state-level political change.<sup>22</sup>

Clio offered social critique of their peers when considering drinking and dancing in their debates. In 1880, they declared “liquor a greater evil than war” and “dancing a greater evil than playing games.” Three years later, they reconsidered their position on dancing, affirming that “dancing was more beneficial than harmful.” They identified “Catholicism a greater threat to nation than liquor” in 1889 but conceded that “liquor manufacturing should not be banned” that same year. In 1905, they concluded, “The (Methodist) church should prohibit dancing, card playing, and theater going.”<sup>23</sup>

Did Clioians see themselves as modern women? A look at their debate topics regarding gender suggests that perhaps they did. Clio members cautioned that the indulgence of fashion weakened morals in 1890. By 1905, they also resolved the “devotion to fashion causes more evil than the tobacco habit.” By 1914, Clio debaters considered the hoop skirt an impediment to navigation and favored a narrow skirt for women instead.<sup>24</sup>

On November 14, 1879, they rejected the idea that the male mind was inferior to that of a woman. A decade later they affirmed that women held as much executive ability

as men. A December 2, 1881 debate resolved all professions should be open to women, and an April 14, 1882 meeting deemed debates beneficial for ladies.<sup>25</sup>

A particularly interesting debate topic reappeared multiple times in the Clio Secretary Record Books: do men gossip more than women? First in 1879, then again in 1882, and then once more in 1890, Clio women debated whether men or women were more prone to gossip. After affirming men were more extravagant than women on April 4, 1879, Clio debaters considered the question of men and gossip at their November 7 meeting later that same year. Men, they agreed, tended to gossip more than their female counterparts. Three years later, Clionians reaffirmed men spread gossip more than women. Eight years after that, in April 1890, Clio debates once again said men were more likely than women to engage in gossip.<sup>26</sup>

While McKendree women weighed gender norms and questions of modernity, the College administration navigated the new realities of a growing female student body and the need for local housing. From the readmission of women to the College in 1869 to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, female students still boarded in homes and rooming houses in the town of Lebanon. Campus housing remained unavailable to women. In 1880, the Board of Trustees approved a “system of government for young ladies” who lived in the local boarding houses while attending the College. Female students could have only one male visitor per week, and their visit must conclude before 10 pm. No men were permitted to visit a female student’s residence after a date or other form of entertainment. The Board’s rules prohibited female students from taking weekend carriage rides or enjoying “pleasure walks.” To enforce these McKendree rules in the community at large, the Board appointed

three trustees who lived in Lebanon to serve as “detectives” and identify noncompliant students.<sup>27</sup> It was in this climate that Clio women offered the following for debate on January 16, 1905: “Secret organizations in colleges and universities should not be encouraged.” Mary Sabrue presented the affirmative position while Gertrude Gerking offered the negative. The debate favored the affirmative position. Two years later, Clio affirmed the necessity of a girls dormitory in their debate held on January 18, 1907. Of note, women’s dorms were not constructed at McKendree College until 1913.<sup>28</sup>

In a final set of examples of debate topics, Clio women considered women’s lives after their McKendree years. In January, 1906, they suggested unmarried men should be taxed to support a home for “old maids.” The May 31, 1907 debate suggested lenient divorce laws weakened morality.<sup>29</sup> Such outcomes hint that Clio women might still hold traditional gender roles as a standard expectation. However, the debate on February 6, 1914 reflected more modern gender expectations when Clio affirmed that women should propose marriage.<sup>30</sup>

Through their first 45 years as a campus organization, Clio women maintained their commitment to education and its value. In fact, their debate from February 13, 1914 affirmed that students must take their education seriously. With the affirmative led by Berneice Waite and the negative argued by Pearl Johnson, Clio agreed that “students who persist in wasting their time and money while in college should be expelled.”<sup>31</sup> Those harsh words served as a reminder of the seriousness to which Clio women took their access to higher education.

The debates and other activities Clio sponsored generated interest in the women's Literary Society at McKendree College. Clio entered the 20<sup>th</sup> century with growing membership numbers. By the 1920s, they shifted from "invitation only" membership to a process of pledges and initiation. While Clio continued to present essays and arguments about timely topics such as the goals of public education and the contributions of women, the Society as a whole began to shift away from its service functions and operate more like a social club by the 1930s as they competed with sororities for potential members. Clio membership peaked in 1931 with 45 total members.<sup>32</sup>

In 1938, College President Clark R. Yost declared social organizations were not in alignment with the mission and character of McKendree, and he ended those groups. Because Clio, along with Plato and Philo, identified primarily as a literary society and not a social club, they were allowed to remain. Social organizations like sororities and fraternities began to meet off campus in response to the Yost limitations. Groups like Clio with their essays and debates looked like more work than fun to many students, and membership stagnated before it began to decline. By the 1970s, membership fell to single digits.<sup>33</sup> While the Clonian Literary Society still remains at McKendree in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the group now known as Kappa Lambda Iota is currently inactive.

The investigation into the McKendree College Clonian Literary Society debate topics in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era provide an opportunity to consider the impacts of higher education on female college students in Southern Illinois. The women of Clio engaged in debates that focused on global as well as local issues. This study of debate outcomes suggest that Clio was a significant group because it offered McKendree women

opportunities to speak, lead, and consider the ways in which the world and their own worldviews could change over time and through higher education.

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<sup>1</sup> (Clio, Box 1, Folder 3)

<sup>2</sup> Green book pg 297, 304

<sup>3</sup> Maroon book, pg 8.

<sup>4</sup> (Decker, 8. Also Frederking but not sure pages)

<sup>5</sup> (\*quote resolution? Decker, pg 8-9)

<sup>6</sup> (Green book, 235. Decker, 9)

<sup>7</sup> (Clio Box 1, folder 2) (Decker, 11-12)

<sup>8</sup> "Report from the Committee on Literary Societies to the Board of Trustees of McKendree College, 1870." McKendree University Archives, Box G, Document 1.

<sup>9</sup> (Decker, 13-14)

<sup>10</sup> Clio Recording Secretary's Book #1 (1877- 1890)

\* March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1881- Resolved that Columbus deserves more credit for discovering America than Washington does for defending it. Aff- Ida Capphen and Annie Shies. Neg- Emma Fugeereou and Carrie Padou. Decision in favor of the negative. (Clio book 1)

<sup>11</sup> READING March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1879- Question resolved that vital newspapers are more productive of evil than good. Affirmative- Mattie Liggett and Carrie Browers. Negative Ella Padou and Isa Vicaus. Decision is in favor of the affirmative. Newspapers are bad!!! (Clio book 1)

<sup>12</sup> READING May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1879- resolved that the reading of fictitious literature is injurious to the mind. Aff- Mollie Leonard and Carrier Eckert. Neg- Carrie Brown and Florence. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

READING November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1882- Resolved that novel reading is beneficial. Aff- Laura Mousley and Carrie Sargeant. Neg- Emma Fergeson and May Gretell. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

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READING Mar 10, 1905—"Excessive reading of literature is an intellectual dissipation that, in the interest of sound knowledge, should be discouraged." Aff: Annie Weaver. Neg: Sadie McBride. Debate for the negative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

<sup>13</sup> EDUC February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1883- Resolved that all girls should be educated in the culinary art. Aff- Jammie Glasgow and Atta Gould. Neg- L. Virgin and Etta Heredman. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

<sup>14</sup> EDUC April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1879- Question resolved that the coeducation of the sexes is productive of higher culture than separate schools. Affirmative- Carrie Padou and Becca Louder. Negative Florence Matisse and Carrie Eckert. Decision is in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

EDUC March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1880- Resolved that mixed schools should be encouraged. Aff- Ella Padou and Annie Murray. Neg- Laura Carson and Lillie Brooks. Decision in favor of the affirmative (clio book1)

EDUC April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1883- Resolved that mixed schools are beneficial to both sexes. Neg- Rye Cox and Lou Dendou. Aff- Jennie Padou and E. Herdman. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

EDUCA April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1889- Resolved that co-education is a success. Aff- Floy Deneen and Avis O'Neal. Neg- Nellie Fehman and Ruth Nobbles. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK2)

<sup>15</sup> (CLIO BOOK 3) May 24, 1906. November 2, 1906.

<sup>16</sup> Debates from April 8, 1905; March 2, 1906, and October 26, 1906. Clio Book 3

<sup>17</sup> (March 31, 1882: affirmed war is wrong under all circumstances. May 18, 1883: rejected war as necessary for civilization. From Clio Record Book #1.) (May 23, 1890: affirmed Mexico was justifiable in their war with the United States. All from Clio Record Book #2.) (April 8, 1905: affirmed expansion is advantageous to the United States. March 2, 1906: affirmed US should annex territory. October 26, 1906: affirmed US should annex Cuba. From Clio Record Book #3.)

<sup>18</sup> WAR Jan 26, 1906—The Panama Canal will be a financial failure. Aff: Nellie Farthing, Francis Moore. Neg: Mildred Haynes, Maud Alexander. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

EXPANSION Sept 29, 1905—Land west of the Mississippi River will be more valuable in the future than the land east of that point. Aff: Grace Isdell. Neg: Carrie Dausman. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

EXPANSION Oct 6, 1905—Another bridge is necessary across the Mississippi River. Aff: Nellie Farthing. Neg: Ethel Horner. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

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<sup>19</sup> LABOR November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1883- Resolved that the reward is a greater incentive to labor than fear. Aff- Sadie Deneen and Ella Herdman. Neg- Lizzie Virgin and Carrie Sargent. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book2)

LABOR March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1889- Resolved that inventions improve the condition of the laboring class. Aff- Nellie Lehman and Ella Clucas. Neg-Rose Elder and Ida Mollet. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK2)

LABOR May 26, 1905—Modern inventions are a menace to the laboring class. Aff: Alice Flint. Neg: Edna Gaultney. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

<sup>20</sup> RACE January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1882- Resolved that the Indian should have the prior right to the soil. Aff- Emma Stratton. Neg-Lorger. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

RACE January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1883- Resolved that the Indian has more room for complaint than the negro. Aff- Emma Fergeson and Atta Gould. Neg- Laura Mousley and Carrie Sargent. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

RACE April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1890- Resolved that if the negros had been free as long as the whites they would have made greater progress than the whites. Aff- Genevieve Jepson and Edith Morriss. Neg- Floy Deneen and Susie Peach. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK2)

IMMIGRATION Jan 13, 1914—California should prohibit Japanese immigration. Aff: Nelle Long. Neg: Emma Berry. Debate for the negative.

RACE May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1890- Resolved that the Indian should have as many rights as the citizens of the United States. Aff- Lydia Fries and Susie Peach. Neg- Clara Revereck and Dora Smith. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 2)

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<sup>21</sup> EQUAL PAY April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1882- Resolved think for the same amount of labor woman should receive the same wage as man. Aff- Belle Liggett and Annie Viugin. Neg- Laura Mousley and Carrie Sullivan. Decision in favor of the Aff. (clio book1)

EQUAL PAY November 1888- Resolved that women's wages should be equal to man's. Aff- Genevieve Jepson and Ella Chicas. Neg- Floy Deneen and Sarah Jones. Decision in favor of the affirmative (CLIO BOOK2)

<sup>22</sup> SUFFRAGE May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1879- resolved that universal suffrage should be tolerated. Affirmative- Ella Padou and Isa. Negative- ? and Sadie Deneen. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

SUFFRAGE April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1881- Resolved that women be allowed the right of suffrage. Aff- S Alaxander Neg- L Glasgow. Decision in favor of the affirmative (clio book1)

SUFFRAGE November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1888- Resolved than women should have the right of suffrage. Aff- Ella Root and Rosa Elder. Neg- Ella Ruff and Bessie Smith. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK2)

SUFFRAGE April 5, 1907—"Women's suffrage is one step towards progress." Aff: Hazel Hurd. Neg: Helen Horner. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3) (women given suffrage in IL June 26, 1913:

<https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/online-exhibits/100-documents/1913-il-suffarge-act.html> )

<sup>23</sup> VICE February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1880- resolved that alcoholic liquor is a greater evil than war. Aff- Misses Amos and Leonard. Neg- Misses Shies and Alexander. Decision in favor of the affirmative (clio book1)

VICE February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1880- resolved that playing games is a greater evil than dancing. Aff- Misses Murphy and Goodmen. Neg- Eliza May Yannie Glasgan. Decision in favor of the negative (clio book1)

VICE March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1883- Resolved that dancing is more beneficial than harmful. Aff- Misses Herdman and Virgin. Neg- Mousley and Fergeson. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

VICE November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1889- Resolved that Catholicism is a greater menace to our nation than the Liquor Traffic. Aff- Eva Rockwell Floy Deneen. Neg- Ida Burton and Kate Murphy. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK2)

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VICE December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1889- Resolved that the manufacture of alcoholic liquors should be prohibited. Aff- Nellie Lehman and Cas Jervick. Neg- Phebe Levis and Mary Johes. Decision in favor of the negative. (CLIO BOOK2)

VICE Feb 10, 1905—"The church should prohibit dancing, card playing, and theater going." Aff: Maude Wallace. Neg: Nell Farthing. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

<sup>24</sup>FASHION April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1890- Resolved that indulgence of fashion weakens morals. Aff- Anna Lieves and Maggie Steele. Neg- Nellie Lehman and Jennie Blauk. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 2)

FASHION Nov 8, 1905—The devotion to fashion causes more evil than the tobacco habit. Aff: Dora Hubner. Neg: Faith Watts. Debate for the Affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

FASHION Jan 23, 1914—Navigation is better accomplished in a narrow skirt than in a hoop skirt. Aff: Mabel Crump. Neg: Nell Jones. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

<sup>25</sup>GENDER November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1879- resolved that the mind of man is inferior to that of woman. Aff- Lillie Brooks and Becca Louder, Neg- Josie Amos and Laurie Moudey. Decision in favor of the negative (clio book1)

GENDER December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1881- Resolved that all professions should be open to women. Aff- Jennie Padou. Neg- E. Field. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (clio book1)

GENDER April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1882- Resolved that debates are not beneficial for ladies. Aff- Annie Skies and Sadie Deneen. Neg- Susie Large and Mary Millen. Decision in favor of the negative. (clio book1)

GENDER Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 1889- Resolved that woman has as much executive ability as man. Aff- Misses Burton and Thrall. Neg- Misses Root and Jepson. Decision in favor of the affirmative.

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<sup>26</sup> GENDER April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1879- Question resolved that men are more extravagant than women. Affirmative- Mary Lenard and Annie Reynolds. Negative- Annie Brooks and Leila Clark. Decision is in favor of the affirmative. (clio book 1)

GENDER November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1879- Resolved that men are more given to gossiping than women. Aff- May Eckert and Jennie Stanley. Negative- Annie Shepard and Jennie Cooper. Decision in favor of the affirmative (clio book1)

GENDER December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1882- Resolved that men are more given to gossip than women. Aff- Emma Fergeson and Etta Gerdman. Neg- May Eckert and Eva Phillips. (clio book1)

GENDER April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1890- Resolved that man is more given to gossiping than woman. Aff- Maud Watts and Lele Wighttower. Neg- Edith Morriss and Phebe Lewis. Decision in favor of the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 2)

<sup>27</sup> Brian Frederking, Bicentennial Bits, McKendree Bicentennial History book draft.

<sup>28</sup> (CLIO BOOK 3, Jan 16, 1905—no secret organizations. GENDER Jan 18, 1907—“A girls dormitory is necessary for McKendree College.” Aff: Clara Schmale. Neg: Mabel Waggoner. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

<sup>29</sup> GENDER Jan 19, 1906—Bachelors should be taxed to support a home for old maids. Aff: Nellie Farthing and Mildred Haynes. Neg: Harriet Garrigus, Ethel Horner. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

GENDER May 31, 1907—“Loose divorce laws are undermining the morals of America.” Aff: Clara Schmale. Neg: Hazel Hurd. Debate for the affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

<sup>30</sup> GENDER Feb 6, 1914—Women should propose. Aff: Lillian Gentry, Jewel Furgason. Neg: Isabelle Griffith, Nelle Kahlert. Debate for the Affirmative. (CLIO BOOK 3)

<sup>31</sup> (Clio Book #3, Feb 13, 1914—students wasting educ)

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<sup>32</sup> Decker, pg 23-25.

<sup>33</sup> Decker, 34.