# THE MARIETTA READING CLUB, 1864-1894

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The Marietta Reading Club, 1864-1894 by R. M. Stimson

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BY

R. M. STIMSON

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H. P. Plausely

#### THE MARIETTA READING CLUB.

Tuesday evening, Oct. 4, 1864, several ladies and gentlemen met at the residence of Miss Maria M. Woodbridge, Putnam street, when was adopted a constitution, forming "The Marietta and Harmar Reading Club." The first record is in a substantial and handsome book—now somewhat worn—wherein are accounts of the proceedings for nineteen years. The use of the second book began Oct. 2, 1883, a book of like style and size as the first, and still in service. This constitution, it may be remarked, was, with a few changes, that of "The Kaleidoscope," a reading club in Marietta, which had previously existed and expired.

The suggester and chief promoter of the present Club, which has had a remarkable success for thirty years, was Mr. Charles H. Goddard, who was one of its most active and enthusiastic members for more than a decade. During this time, the Club had no more able and incisive debater than was Mr. Goddard. Of fine taste in general literature and well up in the thought of the age, of discriminating faculties and of a nervous-sanguine temperament, he was an antagonist that could have held sway in a far wider field.

The record gives the names of thirty persons as Founders of the Club, and adopting a Constitution, which has been amended from time to time, as needs seemed to demand, maintaining the original purpose of reading and discussion and social entertainment.

#### ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP.

The original thirty members are here named, mostly given with initials in the record, but now written more fully, to distinguish the individuals:

\*Prof. Evan W. Evans, died, 1874.

Mrs. Helen C. Evans.

- \*President I. W. Andrews, D. D., LL. D., died 1888. Mrs. Marianne S. Andrews.
- \*Prof. George R. Rosseter, LL. D., died 1882.
- \*Prof. John Kendrick, LL. D., died 1889.

Mrs. George M. Woodbridge.

†Miss Maria M. Woodbridge.

Dr. H. B. Shipman.

\*Mrs. Ellen L. Nye, died 1886.

Rev. John Boyd, D. D.

Charles H. Goddard.

Miss Nancy J. Porterfield.

Miss Kate J. Kendrick.

Miss Sarah R. Emerson.

\*Rev. Erastus Adkins, D. D., died 1890.

Miss Lucy Benedict.

\*Benj. P. Putnam.

Mrs. Lydia E. Putnam.

- \*Chas. B. Wells, died 1885.
- \*Mrs. Cornelia A. Wells, died 1889.

Mrs. Col. Craig.

Mrs. Sarah N. Lovell.

†Judge Martin D. Follett.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Deceased. †Present Members.

- \*Wm. H. Buell, died 1891.
- \*Prof. E. B. Andrews, LL. D., died 1880.
  - Chas. T. Butler.
- †Mrs. Frances G. Slack.
- \*Rev. Thomas Wickes, died 1870.

Rev. Wm. A. Bosworth.

Of these thirty, two were announced at the second meeting as withdrawn, Miss Benedict and Rev. Dr. Wickes; and at the third meeting, two others, Prof. Evans and Wm. H. Buell. Dr. Shipman and Mr. Butler had retired by Jan. 10th, at the seventh meeting. Six more, Mrs. Ellen L. Nye, Miss Kendrick, Prof. Adkins, Mrs. Lovell, Prof. E. B. Andrews, and W. A. Bosworth, had left the Club by the beginning of the second year, as also one of five elected as members in the first season. Mrs. Adkins. This left the Club to begin its second year with only twenty-two members, thirteen of the first thirty-five withdrawn. Rev. Dr. Wickes, Prof. E. B. Andrews and Prof. Evans subsequently re-entered the Club, and Mr. Buell, years after, again became a member. Of these thirteen, Mr. Bosworth removed from town, the other twelve were resignations. It is not to be understood that there was any dissatisfaction, but simply that the Club was in its infancy and had not grown into the reputation and strength that it soon came to enjoy and has ever since held. There have been but eight resignations for more than twenty years, if we except two ladies who are still constant attendants with their husbands. The other vacancies have occurred by death or removal from Marietta.

Of the original members, sixteen were gentlemen,

<sup>\*</sup>Deceased. †Present Members.

fourteen ladies. Twelve of the thirty are not now living, ten are yet residents of the city, and eight elsewhere. Three, after nearly a generation, are still members of the Club, Mrs. Slack, Miss Maria M. Woodbridge, and Judge M. D. Follett.

### MEMBERS ELECTED WITH DATE OF ELECTION.

Rev. I. N. Carman,	Nov.	29,	1864.	
*Mrs. Prof. Adkins,	Jan.	10,	1865.	deceased
Mrs. E. R. Cadwallader,	44	64	46	
Rev. Fred May Holland,	14	G.	46	
*Mrs. Nahum Ward,	44	24,	$\alpha$	d. 1872.
†Dr. J. D. Cotton,	Oct.	3,	1865.	
Mrs. Dr. Cotton,	44	61	46	
Mrs. Fred May Holland,	46	**	46	
*Mrs. M. D. Follett,	46	44	44	d. 1873
Prof. John L. Mills,	Oct.	17,	1865.	
Mrs. J. L. Mills,		44		
Mrs. Titus,	64	14	44	
Prof. John L. Lyle, Ph. D.,	64	10	44	
*Judge Chas. R. Rhodes,	Jan.	9. 1	866.	
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Rhodes,	41	14	14	
*Wylie H. Oldham,		23.	34	
Wm. B. Thomas,	64	16	M	
Mrs. Mary J. Thomas,	Oct.	2,	LE	
Rev. Henry W. Ballantine,	**	30,	16	
Mrs. Ballantine,	66	16	64	
†Douglas Putnam,	64	16	"	
Gen. T. C. H. Smith,	66	16	64	
*Hon. Rufus E. Harte,	Nov	. 27	1886.	d. 1891
†Mrs. Douglas Putnam,			1867.	
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<sup>\*</sup>Deceased. †Present Members.

	Hon. Rodney M. Stimson,	Oct.	1,	1867.	
	Mrs. Julia I. Stimson,	36	44	46	
	Col. S. H. Stafford,	64	16	66	
	*Mrs. Stafford,	ic	64	80	d. 1868.
	Miss Ellen C. Merriam,		30	64	
	Rev. W. C. Finney,	Nov	. 12		
	*Mrs. Finney,	44	46	**	deceased.
	Judge Hiram L. Sibley,	44	46	44.	
	Judge Wm. B. Loomis,	Oct.	6,	1868.	
	†Beman Gates,	16	20,		
	Mrs. Betsey Gates,	490	46	44	
	tGen. A. J. Warner,	kš:	5,	1869.	
	*Prof. David E. Beach, D. D.,	:6	19,	44	d. 1888.
ill	Rev. Theron H. Hawks, D. D.	.,	"	14	
32	Mrs. Hawks,	61	-	66	
	*Rev. Wm. Wakefield,	64	41	64	
	*Rev. Wm. Addy, D. D.,	Nov	. 2,	44	d. 1891.
	Rev. J. Riley Johnson,	44	14	61.	
	†Judge Samuel S. Knowles,	Jan	. 11	, 1870.	
	*Rev. Marsena Stone, D. D.,	Nov	. 1,	16	d. 1893.
	Prof. Wm. B. Graves,	44	**	98	
	*Hon. Wm. P. Cutler,	Oct	. 17	, 1871,	d. 1889.
	Gen. Rufus R. Dawes,	46	56	LC	
	Joseph Addison Kingsbury,	66	16	4.6	
	*James McArthur,		46	64	d. 1892.
	Rev. Josiah H. Jenkins,	te	21,	1873.	
	Prof. S. S. Orris, Ph.D., L.H.I	)., "	44	14	
	Francis W. Minshall,	Feb	. 24	, 1874	2
	Prof. Thos. D. Biscoe, LL. D.	, Oct	. 20	, "	
	Prof. E. A. Jones,	44	46	44	
	Miss Elizabeth Anderson,	Nov	. 17	, 44	

Deceased. †Present Members.