

TUESDAY NIGHT LITERARY CLUB

At the invitation of the Ladies Literary Circle a number of young ladies met at the home of Mrs. F. B. Chester on September 30, 1898 and decided to form an organization for young unmarried women. Miss Bessie Baker was chosen to act as temporary chairman and appointed a committee to write a constitution and by-laws for the new organization. The members of that committee were Miss Mary A. Conrad, Miss Florence Trunell and Miss Emma Barr.

On October 7, 1898, the group was organized under the name of The Girls Literary Club of Dwight. The objectives of the new club were to familiarize its members with standard authors and to encourage mental and social improvement. The constitution and by-laws were adopted and those present affixed their signatures, thereby becoming charter members. Following is the list of charter members:

Fannie W. Conner	Agnes B. Buck
Florence E. Trunnell	Susie E. Leach
Lydia L. Seabert	Susie M. Fox
Florence E. Wright	Myrtle O. Martin
Mary A. Conrad	Adaline H. Baker
Addie B. Fenn	S. Adelaide Barr
Lydia L. Fox	Lilly B. Conrad
Iva Martin	Minnie E. Barr
Gertrude B. Plank	L. Emma Barr
Bessie S. Baker	Margaret Meneely
Pauline E. Fox	Cora E. Adams
Ada Vaughn Weldon	

The first officers were; President, Gertrude B. Plank; Vice President, Lydia Fox; Secretary, Bessie S. Baker; Treasurer, Minnie E. Barr; Program Leader, Lilly B. Conrad. Miss Fox and Miss Meneely served on the program committee with Miss Conrad.

On November 22, 1898 the name of the organization was changed to The Tuesday Night Literary Club. On September 8, 1903, the group decided to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and retain that practice at the present time.

During the first World War the club adopted a French war orphan and provided her with clothing for two years. They raised money to help build the Dwight Public Library and contributed a large table for the reading room. The table is still in use.

In October 1948 the club celebrated the fiftieth year with a dinner and program. Nearly eighty members, past and present, were in attendance at the dinner given in the dining room of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Beda Sondergaard, president, introduced the past presidents and a gift was presented to the oldest guest and only charter member present, Miss Cora Adams. The program consisted of a series of pantomimes covering one meeting in each of the ten year periods since the club's beginning and contemporary music was employed. The costumes were appropriate to the period.

Genevieve H. Agerty