

Noble County, Lee Chapple Temperance Society Minute Book, 1870–1882

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In 1870 the Indiana Temperance Alliance hosted a meeting attended by representatives of all but two Indiana districts. Temperance, an issue largely relegated to the background from 1861 to 1865, while the United States was engulfed in the Civil War, re-emerged with a vengeance in 1870. The main belief of temperance advocates can be found in the first resolution adopted by the Indiana Temperance Alliance: “the belief that there is no human agency short of total abstinence which can save our country from becoming a nation of drunkards.”¹ Temperance societies linked alcohol to spousal abuse, crime, poverty, and other social evils of the time. In 1917 the U.S. Congress passed the Eighteenth Amendment, known as the Prohibition amendment. Two years later the amendment was ratified, and in January 1920 the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transportation, importation, and exportation of alcohol. However, due to the work of temperance societies and the dedication of the state’s temperance workers, Indiana had officially been a “dry state” since April 2, 1918.²

The William H. Smith Memorial Library at the Indiana Historical Society holds the minute book of the Lee Chapple Temperance Society from La Otto in Noble County. An auxiliary of the Congressional Union Temperance Society of Washington, DC, the Lee Chapple Temperance Society was founded on February 22, 1870. Lewis Holbrook served as the chairman, and E. S. Harrison was the secretary. Later the society’s name was changed to the Gospel Temperance Society of La Otto, Noble County. The last meeting recorded in the minute book was held March 18, 1882.³

Members, including both men and women, signed their names, pledging to “wholly [abstain] from all intoxicating drinks . . . and discountenance its use by others.”⁴ As revealed by the Lee Chapple Temperance Society’s pledge, temperance involved a two-part process: abstaining from alcohol and discouraging others from drinking alcohol. One way that the Noble County temperance advocates completed these tasks was to petition the state government against granting liquor licenses. A petition found in the Lee Chapple society minute book does just that:

To the Honorable Commissioners of the County of Noble and the State of Indiana your petitioners, citizens of the village of La Otto and surrounding country, respectfully ask your honorable body, not to grant license to William Rhodes, who will make application to you for same, to set up a saloon, and sell intoxicating liquors in said village. Believing it to be ruinous of our now moral, religious, and peaceful citizens. For your honorable decision in our favor we earnestly pray.⁵

The minute book from the Lee Chapple Temperance Society reveals the support that temperance had even in rural areas and also provides some evidence for why Indiana transformed into a dry state two years before the rest of the United States.

Notes

1. Charles E. Canup, “The Temperance Movement in Indiana,” *Indiana Magazine of History* 16, no. 2 (1920): 112, 113.
2. Jane Hedeem, “Temperance and Prohibition Timeline,” 2, 4. This article can be found in the Educator Resources/Curriculum pages for “The 1920s and the Great Depression” on the Indiana Historical Society website, <https://indianahistory.org/education/educator-resources/curriculum/the-1920s-and-the-great-depression/>.
3. Collection Guide, Lee Chapple Temperance Society Minute Book, 1870–1882, SC 2899, Indiana Historical Society.
4. November 1871 Minutes, Lee Chapple Temperance Society Minute Book, 27.
5. February 12, 1881, Minutes, Lee Chapple Temperance Society Minute Book, 82.

Lee Chapple Temperance Society Minute Book, 1870–1882

Lewis Holbrook, E S Harrison / Gospel Temperance Society of La Otto, Noble County

Names of members of society between November 1871 and May 1872 (pp. 27–32)

1. Lewis Holbrook
2. John [---]
3. John Hogue
4. E S Hanson
5. Albertus Hanson
6. Oliver Simon
7. Frank Drake
8. James Hogue
9. [Henry/Harvey] Clark
10. Albert Hogue
11. [Henry/Gerry?] Smith
12. John Hogue
13. Geo W Beaber
14. C W Timmerman
15. H C West
16. Vernin Potter
17. Charles Bruce
18. Richard Dudley
19. Perry Bradley
20. Eddie Bruce
21. Ellen Hogue
22. Jacob Shonse
23. S Y Barringer
24. [H/M] Atwell
25. Frank Hogue

26. Cornelia Hogue
27. Loretta Holbrook
28. Martha Holbrook
29. Mary Hogue
30. Susan Drake
31. Martha Simon
32. Esther Simon
33. Theodore Warner
34. Annie Cool
35. Nancy Warner
36. Cordie Holbrook
37. Carrie Drake
38. Olive Gring
39. [R/K?] W Drake
40. Lyman Holbrook
41. Benjamin F Simon
42. Fremont Hogue
43. Samuel Bricker
44. Ellen Simon
45. Rose Gorrell
46. Josephine Gorrell
47. Simon Straub
48. Adelia Straub
49. Marilla Reed
50. David Beaber
51. L P Holbrook
52. C Marshall
53. William Gorrell
54. Eva Bricker
55. Ellen Potter
56. Chas Reed

57. Emma West
58. Lucy M Simon
59. [Mary/May] P Reed
60. Jane Weller
61. Samuel Potter
62. Leodema Ervin
63. Mrs. McCartney
64. S S Bassett
65. Jennett S Beatte
66. Jennie A Hamilton
67. Ella Warner
68. Elmira Warner
69. Isabel Jones
70. Mary Beard
71. C E Dunton
72. [Hattie B/Mattie C?] Bassett
73. Jennie Colors
74. Maggie Bradley
75. Etta Cramer
76. Eugene Baker
77. Wallace Bruce
78. John Miller
79. Willie Potter
80. Betsey Ann Holbrook
81. Drake S Dehoff
82. Alice H Dehoff
83. Josephine Bruce
84. Ollie Simon
85. Pollie Miller
86. Rebecca Miller
87. Sarah [Hilkart/Hilkert]

88. Chris Graham
89. James Graham
90. Sarah [H/A?] Potter
91. W Griswald
92. James Griswald
93. David Simon
94. Frank Simon
95. Wellington Martin
96. Abigail Simon
97. Cornelia Simon
98. [---]
99. Sarah Bruce
100. [Sthe/Stephen Parrish]
101. [---] [---] Parrish
102. [illegible]
103. Alice Dudley
104. Martha [Whright?]
105. Louesia [Weigel?]
106. Henry Beaber
107. Charles Miller
108. Simon Bieber
109. Wm Cliff
110. Aaron Worth
111. [Tyban/Ta Ban] Glesson
112. M F Long
113. Thomas Smith
114. A J Smith
115. Joseph Whetsel
116. Rosa L Holbrook
117. Dr. G M Ellis
118. Sadie Colors

119. Eugene Bradley
120. John Buchan
121. Milan Cramer
122. Beally Broughton
123. B W Potter
124. Isaiah Zimmerman
125. N O Drake
126. Lizzie Ditman
127. Mary Gorrell
128. Clara [Whitfield/Whitford]
129. Hattie Marshall
130. H E Sowers
131. Anna Clark
132. Retta Potter
133. Sarah Liter
134. Jennie Smith
135. Franklin Barnes
136. Christian Liter
137. J L Pray
138. May [Zom/Zem]
139. John Gorrell
140. Mrs. H C Kinzie
141. Ella S Smith
142. H C Kinzie
143. Jas. K Rop
144. E B [Higgert/Higent]
145. Moses Simon
146. [Abagal/Abigail?] Simon
147. [May/Mary] Simon
148. Lavinia Rifs
149. Samuel Hoover

150. Wm [Greery?]
151. Josiah Simon
152. Ed Moore
153. John Grim
154. Samuel Broughton
155. C W Smith
156. E B Potter
157. D Strouse
158. Geneava Bradley
159. Mary Ann Shingle
160. [Cathrien/Catherine?] Bradley
161. Laura Barland
162. Rebecca Simon
163. L M Bassett
164. Jennie Dudley
165. Rebeca Hanson
166. J W Amanda
167. George Harvy
168. A J Hiatt
169. J Sowers
170. C P Ogden
171. C Shonse
172. M Hines
173. A J Smith
174. John Zim
175. Charlie Simon
176. Mary D Beymer
177. Sadie Smith
178. W C Smith
179. Mrs. Pulver
180. Ida Pulver

181. Louisa Sowers
182. Ella Hanson
183. Mary Rease
184. Lettie Rease
185. Katie Sowers
186. Emma Hippenhammer
187. Romanza Beard
188. May Baker
189. Mrs. Smothers
190. W H Zern
191. F G Moor
192. Franklin Rosenburger
193. Silas Simon
194. Nancy Albertson
195. [H?] Gorrell

Names of persons signing the “Pledge of the LaOtto CTU Society” between March 3, 1880–April 14, 1880 (p. 65)

1. Lewis Holbrook
2. W C Smith
3. John E Pulver
4. John Dudley
5. Samuel Dudley
6. A C Parish
7. Albert Ehmendorf
8. Martin Bilger
9. David Simon
10. James H Kniss
11. Ella Hanson
12. Jennie Dudley

13. Susanna Smith
14. Gertrude Miller
15. Lucy M Simon
16. John Miller
17. John Gorrell
18. Jacob Simon
19. H C Kinzie
20. Lee Holbrook
21. L S Lezeune
22. Anson Preston
23. Alice Simon
24. C C Miller
25. Rebecca Miller
26. Louie Simon
27. Lydia Preston
28. Mary Miller
29. Barday E Bassett
30. H F [Heatt/Headd?]
31. George Bilger
32. Elmer Strand
33. Albert Glenn
34. Gery Wolford
35. Wm Gorrell
36. Wm [Potter/Patter?]
37. P Sarah Brider
38. A S Thrush
39. Rose Gorrell
40. Tilla Sands
41. Bella [Mills/Miller]
42. Emma Holbrook
43. Mary Holbrook

44. Adelia Strout
45. Elizabeth Bidger
46. Loretta Holbrook
47. Dr. Bowher
48. Minnie Stones
49. Elm[a/er] Zim
50. Andrew Bilger
51. John McKinon
52. Hiram Gorrell
53. Emit [Ditmans/Ditmars]
54. William [Hoover/Houser]
55. Nellie Whitford
56. Ellen Bridenshine
57. [Bernie/Bertie] Zimmerman
58. Emma Zimmerman
59. Ida Zimmerman
60. Bell Bowkes
61. J Drake

Names of persons signing petition dated February 12, 1881 (pp. 82–83)

1. Lewis Holbrook
2. John Miller
3. Martin Bilges
4. Winifield Gorrell
5. Jacob Simon
6. W H Zimmerman
7. E S Hanson
8. John K Gorrell
9. James H Kniss
10. Lafayette Hall

11. Alva Preston
12. Albert Hogue
13. George Bilger
14. A C Kinzy
15. Andrew Bilger
16. J W Ammon
17. Jesse Bilger
18. C F Hogue
19. S W Dudley
20. A C Parish
21. Elmer Stroub
22. John Drake
23. John Dudley
24. H J [Hyatte/Hayette?]
25. James Hogue
26. J J [Bowkes/Boukes?]
27. Lorretta Holbrook
28. Emiline Drake
29. Mary Miller
30. Mary Zim
31. Jennie Hogue
32. Phebe Zimmerman
33. Emma Holbrook
34. Effa Miller
35. Joseph Dudley
36. Angie Dudley
37. Ida Zim
38. [Ella/Etta] Upton
39. Mary Snyder
40. [MD/Mid?] Gorrell
41. H C Hanson

42. Ida Bassett
43. Albert Bosenberger
44. Minnie Stoner
45. Jennie Dudley
46. Samuel Rosenberger
47. E V Potter
48. J H Prouly
49. Gertrude Miller
50. Rebecca Weller
51. [Marsella/Marella] Marsh
52. Rebe[c?]ca Hanson
53. Martha Kinzie
54. Olive Hogue
55. Ellen Hogue
56. Anna Sowers
57. Ella [---]
58. William Potter
59. John Zim
60. Charley Dudley
61. George Zim
62. Isaiah Bicker
63. Richard Dudley
64. John Hogue
65. William Strouse
66. Peter Zimmerman