



Transcription for CCHS 2004.10.09

This leather bound notebook, 6 ¾” by 8 ½,” is bound by a ribbon running through three holes, and tied at the top. The front of the leather cover is embossed with a floral pattern. The first and last pages have been damaged by contact with the leather cover. Notes were kept in this book, beginning in the fall of 1899 and ending in 1924. Please note that sometimes the spelling of the names of authors or titles of books varied – and the names of members of the Reading Class, too.

An Outline History of the Chevy Chase Reading Class

founded in 1899
Chevy Chase, Md
by
Mesdames Verrill, Robertson,
Bowen and Richards

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In the Autumn of 1899, it was suggested to Mrs. Verrill by Mrs. Cousar, then living in Chevy Chase, that we inaugurate a Reading Class, modeled on one Mrs. Cousar had attended. The idea seemed a good one, and Mrs. Verrill invited Mrs. Mary B. Robertson, Mrs. Grace R. Bowen and Mrs. Fannie O. Richards to unite in forming such a class.

In the following year (1900) we read, during the months of February, March and April, from text books on English Literature; Taine, Stopford Brookes and others.

Mrs. Cousar was present a few times.

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Second Year.

The year 1900-1901.

This year we invited to join us the Misses Mary and Helen Childs, Mrs. Helen Z. Tucker and Mrs. Annie L. H. Weaver. We became more methodical in our meetings. We reviewed the life and works of the early English poets and purely literary prose writers up to the eighteenth century.

Chaucer, Spenser, Bacon, Swift, Pope, and Johnson were read, in part.

Each member became in turn the leader for the day, and an author was assigned to her for special work. Meetings were held once a week from eleven to twelve-thirty A.M. Luncheon was abandoned.

Mrs. Weaver resigned.

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Third Year.

The Years 1901-1902.

Membership: [in two columns]

1. Mrs. Verrill,
2. Mrs. Robertson,
3. Mrs. Bowen,
4. Mrs. Richards,
5. Miss M. Childs,
6. Miss H. Childs,
7. Mrs. Tucker
8. Mrs. __ Mower,
9. Mrs. Cecily A. Claude,
10. Mrs. Minnie N. Swartzell,
11. Mrs. Blossom D. Oliphant,
12. Mrs. Mary A. Lincoln.

_____ .. _____

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The Years 1901-1902

The first set programs were made this year. Wednesday morning was chosen as the time of meeting. Our first lesson was November 4; our last March 31, 22 Lessons. The authors from whom we read were Scott, Lamb, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Macauley, Moore, Shelley, Keats, and Byron. A number of papers were read.

Mrs. Mower resigned.

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Fourth Year.

The Years 1902 – 1903.

Membership: [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill,
Mrs. Robertson,
Mrs. Bowen,
Mrs. Richards,
Miss M. Childs,
Miss H. Childs,
Mrs. Tucker,
Mrs. Claude,
Mrs. Swartzell,
Mrs. Oliphant,
Mrs. Lincoln,

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The Years 1902, 1903

Our first Lesson was on November twelfth; the last on April eighth, omitting December twenty-fourth, twenty-one lessons.

The authors from whom we read were Thackeray, Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Tennyson, George Eliot, Carlyle, Ruskin, and Mathew Arnold.

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Fifth Year.

The Years 1903-1904

Membership: [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill,
Mrs. Robertson
Mrs. Bowen,
Mrs. Richards,
Miss M. Childs,
Miss H. Childs,
Mrs. Tucker,
Mrs. Claude,
Mrs. Swartzell,

Mrs. Oliphant,
Mrs. Lincoln,
Mrs. Gertrude McN. Stevens,
Mrs. Minnie A. Whitney,
Mrs. Anna Hamlin Hodges.

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The Years 1903-1904.

The year began November fourth, and closed April sixth, twenty-two lessons.

The authors read were Americans. Irving, Bryant, Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Whittier, Holmes, Thoreau, and Lowell.

From the organization of the class to and including this year, Mrs. Verrill, after consultation with the class, had decided on the courses, assigned the lessons, and made the programs. Being now convinced that the class was as well qualified to do this work as she was, she begged to be retired, and to place her privileges in the hands of the class.

It was so arranged. The class de-

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ecided that thereafter all business should be in the hands of a Committee of three, the Chairman to be chosen by the Class, and her assistants to be named by her. The Chairman selected for ensuing year was Mrs. Robertson, her assistants Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Stevens.

A few simple rules were formulated, and ordered to be printed on new year's programs.

Mrs. Oliphant resigned.

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Sixth Year,

The Years 1904-1905.

Membership [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill,
Mrs. Robertson,
Mrs. Bowen,
Mrs. Richards,
Miss Childs,
Miss H. Childs,

Mrs. Tucker,
Mrs. Claude,
Mrs. Swartzell,
Mrs. Lincoln,
Mrs. Stevens,
Mrs. Whitney,
Mrs. Hattie Case Howard
Mrs. Hodges.

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The years 1904-1905

Lessons commenced October nineteenth and ended April twelfth, twenty-four lessons.
December twenty-first and twenty-eighth omitted.

The course chosen by Committee was The Elizabethan Era of English Literature. The sub-heads were Pre-Shakespearian Drama, The Theater in Shakespear's Time, Minor Poets and Prose Writers Beaumont and Fletcher, and Ben Johnson.

In the course of the year we read Hamlet, Midsummer's Night's Dream, King Lear, Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, The Tempest, Antony and Cleopatra.

The rules adopted by the class were as follows:

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Years 1904-1905

Rules:

1. The membership of the Class shall be limited to twenty and only residents of Chevy Chase shall be eligible.
2. Notice of any name to be voted on for membership must be given one week in advance and all absent members notified. Voting by secret ballot.
3. One adverse vote shall defeat candidate.
4. The preparation of the program, and all other business, shall be in the hands of a program committee.
5. The Program Committee shall consist of a Chairman, elected by the Class, and two assistants, chosen by her.

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Term of office, one year.

6. The election of the Chairman shall take place annually at the first meeting in January, a two-thirds vote of the members present being necessary for election.
7. The leader for the day shall call the meeting to order promptly at eleven o'clock.
8. Conversation during meetings shall be restricted to the subject in hand.

————— .. —————
Mrs. Whitney left the Class for her home in Milwaukee, Wis.

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Seventh Year.

Years 1905-1906.

Membership: [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill
Mrs. Robertson
Mrs. Bowen
Mrs. Richards
Miss Childs
Miss H. Childs
Mrs. Tucker
Mrs. Claude
Mrs. Swartzell
Mrs. Lincoln
Mrs. Stevens
Mrs. Howard
Mrs. Hodges
Mrs. Sarah C. Davis

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Years of 1905-1906.

Lessons commenced October eighteenth, ended April eleventh, December twentieth and twenty-seventh omitted.

Mrs. Richards was elected Chairman of the Program Committee; assistants Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Swartzell. They planned another Shakesperean year. The plays read were the Henrys IV and V, Richard III, Much Ado About Nothing, Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It, Julius Caesar, Romeo and Juliet, Coriolanus, Twelfth Night, Othello, Cymbeline, Winter's Tale.

Mrs. Howard was absent during the winter thru illness, and left for California in the Spring.

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Eighth Year.

Years 1906-1907

Membership: [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill
Mrs. Robertson
Mrs. Bowen
Mrs. Richards
Miss Childs
Miss H. Childs.
Mrs. Tucker
Mrs. Claude
Mrs. Swartzell
Mrs. Lincoln
Mrs. Stevens
Mrs. Hodges.
Mrs. Davis.
Mrs. Howard.

Mrs. Lincoln went to Worcester, Mass.

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Years 1906-1907

Lessons began the first Wednesday in November; November twenty-eight, December nineteenth and twenty-sixth omitted. Twenty one lessons.

Mrs. Tucker was elected Chairman. Miss Helen Childs and Mrs. Davis, assistants. The course chosen was “Four Great Masters of Literature.” Homer, Dante, Milton and Cervantes. Each writer was given to a Committee of three.

Homer: Mesdames Richards, Hodges and Claude.

Dante: Mesdames Robertson, Verrill, and Bowen.

Milton: Mesdames H. Childs, Swartzell and Bowen.

Cervantes: Mesdames Stevens, Howard and Tucker.

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Six weeks were given to Homer, six to Dante, four to Milton and four to Cervantes. A number of papers were read during the year.

Mrs. Claude resigned.

Average attendance eleven.

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Ninth Year.

Years 1907-1907.

Membership. [In two columns]

Mrs. Verrill.

Mrs. Robertson.

Mrs. Bowen.

Mrs. Richards.

Miss Childs.

Miss H. Childs.

Mrs. Tucker.

Mrs. Swartzell

Mrs. Stevens.

Mrs. Hodges.

Mrs. Davis.

Mrs Mary MdI. Glennan

Mrs. Gertrude F. Wedderburn.

Mrs. Mary B. Curtis

————— .. —————
Mrs. Verrill left for California in February.

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Years 1907-1908.

Lessons began November sixth, ended April eighth, omitting Nov. 27, December 25, and Ash Wednesday.

Number of lessons, nineteen.

Average attendance, ten.

Miss Helen Childs was elected Chairman of Program Committee, Assistants: Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Davis.

The course chose was Four Great Dramatists:

Molière, Racine, Goethe, Schiller.

Each writer was given to a committee of three.

Molière, Chairman, Mrs. Verrill. Assistants, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Davis.

Racine, Chairman, Mrs. Tucker. Assistants, Mrs. Davis, Miss Childs.

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Goethe; Chairman, Mrs. Robertson, Assistants, Mrs. Swartzell, Mrs. Stevens.

Schiller; Chairman, Mrs. Hodges, Assistants, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Bowen.

Six weeks were given to Molière, three to Racine, six to Goethe, and four to Schiller.

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Readings.

Les Précieuses Ridicules, and portions of Leon Vincent's Hotel de Rambouillet. Tartuffe, Bourgeois Gentilhomme, and portions of Femmes Savantes and Médecin Malgré Lui, Le Misanthrope and Malade Imaginaire –

Shorter poems by Goethe, and the first part of Faust.

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Schiller's William Tell, Wallenstein, and minor poems.

Racine's Esther, Andromagne and Athalie.

Average attendance ten.

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Tenth Year.

Years 1908-1909.

Members. [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill.
Mrs. Robertson.
Mrs. Bowen.
Mrs. Richards.
Miss Childs.
Miss H. Childs.
Mrs. Tucker.
Mrs. Swartzell.
Mrs. Stevens.
Mrs. Hodges.
Mrs. Davis.
Mrs. Glennan
Mrs. Wedderburn
Mrs. Curtis.

Mrs. Verrill was absent throughout the year.
Mrs. Swartzell was absent four months in 1909.
Mrs. Curtis resigned.

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The Years 1908 – 1909.

Lessons began November eleventh, and closed March thirty-first, omitting November twenty-fifth, December twenty-third, thirtieth and Ash-Wednesday.

Number of lessons seventeen; and an additional one at end of course to complete Ring and The Book.

Mrs. Hodges was chosen Chairman of the Program Committee for 1909-1910. Assistants, Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Wedderburn. The authors chosen for study were Tennyson, Wordsworth and Browning. The committees were as follows:

Tennyson -- Mrs. Hodges, Ch., Mrs. Davis,

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Mrs. Glennan, Mrs. Swartzell, and Mrs. Tucker.

Wordsworth; Miss H. Childs, Ch., Mrs. Bowen, Miss Childs, Mrs. Robertson.

Browning; Mrs. Verrill, Ch., Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Wedderburn.

Readings.

From Tennyson: Idylls of the King, Coming of Arthur, Lady of Shallott, Holy Grail.

From Wordsworth: The Prelude and early poems, following Mrs. McMahan's With Wordsworth in England. Letters. Intimations of Immortality, Extracts from Excursion. Shorter poems.

From Browning; The Barrett Letters, Rabbi Ben Ezra. Abt Vogler, Assolanto, Ina Balcony, Pied Piper, Cleon.

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In a Gondola, Hervé Riel, Short poems. Ring and the Book.

Average attendance nine.

Mrs. Albert and Mrs. Ridgway were elected members.

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Eleventh Year.

Years 1909-10

Membership. [two columns]

Mrs. Verrill.

Mrs. Robertson.

Mrs. Bowen

Mrs. Richards

Miss Childs

Miss Helen Childs

Mrs. Tucker

Mrs. Swartzell

Mrs. Stevens

Mrs Hodges

Mrs. Davis

Mrs. Glennan

Mrs Wedderburn

Mrs. Carrie King Ridgway

Mrs. Janet Jones Albert

_____ .. _____

Mrs. Verrill absent in 1909. Mrs. Swartzell absent throughout the year.

Resignations.

In October, Mrs. Glennan. In January (1910) Mrs. Davis, Miss Childs, Miss Helen Childs, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Swartzell.

In February Mrs. Albert went to Columbus, O, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Paschal, Mrs. Parker elected.

Average attendance, 7.7.

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Years 1909-10

Lessons began October twenty-seventh, and ended March thirtieth, omitting November twenty-fourth, December twenty second and twenty-ninth, and February ninth. Nineteen lessons.

The authors who had been chosen for study were George Meredith, G. Bernard Shaw, R. L. Stevenson, Ibsen, Tolstoi, Kipling, D.G. Rossetti, Victor Hugo, and Materlinck.

Committees: Meredith, Mrs. Richards.
Shaw, Mrs. Davis.
Stevenson, Mrs. Hodges.
Ibsen, Mesdames Stevens and Albert.
Tolstoi, Mrs. Wedderburn.
Rossetti, Mrs. H. Childs, Mrs. Ridgway.
Kipling, Mesdames Robertson and Bowen.
Materlinck, Mrs. Tucker.

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Victor Hugo was omitted and readjustments made in consequence of resignations.

At first meeting a paper by Mrs. Bowerman [Wash.] was read. “Have we now any successors to Eliot and Thackery?”

Readings.

From Meredith: Diana of the Crossways. Shaw: Essays. Also Chesterton on Shaw.

Stevenson: Essays and Poems, Will ‘o the Mill.

Ibsen: Doll’s House, Hedda Gabler, First Act of Peer Gynt, Summary of Master Builder.

Tolstoi: Anna Karenina.

Rossetti: Blessed Damosel, Kings Tragedy, Sister Helen, Jennie, Rose Marie.

Kipling: Light that Failed, Ballads, William the Conqueror.

Materlinck: Monna Vanna, portions of Blue Bird, Essay on Dog.

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It was decided that, hereafter, the members of the class should pay for the programs, rather than the members of the Program Committee only. Dues for 1910-11, 10 c. each.

Mrs. Verrill was elected Chairman of Program Committee for 1910-11. Assistants: Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Ridgway, Mrs. Albert.

Course chosen. The Wisdom of the East.

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Twelfth Year.

Years 1910, 1911

Membership. [two columns]

Mrs. Verrill.

Mrs. Robertson.

Mrs. Bowen.

Mrs. Richards.

Mrs. Stevens.

Mrs. Hodges.

Mrs. Wedderburn.

Mrs. Ridgway.

Mrs. Lois Sherman Paschal.

Mrs. Emily Osgood Griffin.

Mrs. Sara Meaghley Parker.

Average attendance, 8.25

Mrs. Verrill seldom present on account of ill health.

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Years 1910.11

Lessons began November second 1910, ended March fifteenth 1911, omitting November twenty-third, December twenty-first and twenty-eighth and February twenty-second. Sixteen lessons.

Course chosen. Wisdom of the East.

Committees: Egypt, Babylon and China.

Ch. Mrs. Stevens, Assts: Mesdames Paschal, Parker and Ridgway.
Persia and Buddhism.

Ch. Mrs. Robertson,
Assts: Mesdames Bowen and Hodges.

India.

Ch. Mrs. Richards
Assts: Mesdames Wedderburn and Griffin

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Readings.

Babylon and Assyria.

Historical sketch. Reading with explanatory text of Hymns to the Sun God, Legend of Etana, Epic of Gilgamesh, including descent of Ishtar into Arallu. Story of Creation. Legend of the Worm. Episode of the Flood. Extracts from Code of Hammurabi.

Egypt.

Historical sketch. The manners, customs and religion of ancient Egypt. Readings from Book of the Dead. Origin and use of the Scarab. Art, Architecture, tombs, and embalming. Rosetta stone. Literary records and literary periods. Precepts of Ptah Hotep. Epic of Pentaur. Lyrics. Epic of the Two Brothers. Setra and the Magic Book.

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China

Historical sketch. Script and language. Readings from the Confucian classics and Meucins [spelling?]

Mrs. Verrill was chosen Chairman of Program Committee for 1911, 12. Assts: Mesdames Bowen and Ridgway. Course chosen. Wisdom of the east, concl'd. and the modern authors, Addison, Moore, Trollope and Huxley.

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Thirteenth Year.

Years 1911 – 1912.

Membership. [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill.
Mrs. Robertson.
Mrs. Bowen.
Mrs. Richards.
Mrs. Stevens.
Mrs. Hodges.
Mrs. Wedderburn.
Mrs. Ridgway.
Mrs. Paschal.
Mrs. Griffin.
Mrs. Parker.

Average attendance, 7.

Mrs. Paschal in Europe throughout the year.

Resignations.

Nov. 1911, Mrs. Parker. December, Mrs. Griffin. Mrs. Verrill seldom present.

Elections.

December Mrs. Pruden and Mrs. Cushman
March, 1912, Mrs. Teel, Mrs. Prentice, Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Lathrop.

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Years 1911- 1912.

Lessons began November first, ended April tenth, omitting November twenty-ninth, December twentieth and twenty-seventh. February twenty-first and March thirteenth. Nineteen lessons in all.

Course chose Wisdom of the East, concl'd, and the modern Authors, Trollop, Moore, Addison and Huxley.

Japan – Old and New.
Mrs. Ridgway.

India – concluded.
Mrs. Richards.

Anthony Trollope.
Mrs. Stevens.

Mohammed and the Koran.
Mrs. Wedderburn.

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Persian Literature
Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Hodges.

Moore.
Mrs. Griffin.

Arabian Nights.
Mrs. Parker.

Huxley.
Mrs. Paschal.

Addison.
Mrs. Bowen.

Huxley was omitted and the two extra days given to Mrs. Richards.

Readings.

Remarks on Japanese literature. Gengi Mongatari. Two medieval plays: Abstraction and Ribs and Skin. Tanka (verses) ancient and modern; ghost stories; the legend of Ito Norisuki. Romance of the Milky Way. Tanabata and Kikoboshi. Readings [...]

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[...] from Lafcadio Hearn's translations.

Biography of Trollope. Barchester Towers.

Life of Mohammed and extracts from Koran. The Moors in Spain, Stanley Lane Poole. Irving's Alhambra. Later Indian drama. The Clay Cart and Sakuntala, both by Kalidasa.

Sketch of Persian literature. The Sufis or Mystics. The Shanamah of Firdausi; Khosru and Shireen of Nizami. Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam. Rose and Fruit Garden of Rumi and Saadi. Salaman and Absol of Jami. Le Gallienee's translations of Hafiz. Portions of Lall Rookh. Stories from Arabian Nights.

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Years 1911-1912

Lives of Addison and Steele and Readings from Spectator.

Mrs. Verrill was chosen chairman of Program Committee for 1912-1913.

Assistants: Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Wedderburn.

Course chosen Historical Plays of Shakespeare.

Rules put into good shape with several slight alterations and inserted in new programs.

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Rules.

1. The membership of the class shall be limited to twenty, and only residents of Chevy Chase shall be eligible.
2. Notice of any name to be voted on for membership must be submitted to the class by the Executive Committee one week in advance, and all absent members notified. Voting by secret ballot. One adverse vote shall defeat candidate.
3. All business matters, including the preparation of the program, shall be in the hands of an Executive Committee. Such Committee shall consist of three members; the Chairman to be selected by the class, and her associate members to be named by her.

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4. The election for the Chairman for the following season shall take place annually at the first meeting in January, a two-thirds vote of the members present being necessary for election.
5. The leader for the day shall call the meeting to order promptly at 11 A. M.
6. Conversation during meetings shall be restricted to the subject at hand.
7. Chevy Chase (in Rule 1) shall be construed to include any outlying district of that name, but all meetings are to be held in houses of members in Section 2.

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Fourteenth Year.

Years 1912-13.

Members. [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill

Mrs. Robertson

Mrs. Bowen

Mrs. Richards

Mrs. Stevens

Mrs. Hodges

Mrs. Wedderburn

Mrs. Ridgway
Mrs Paschal
Mrs. Stella Test Pruden
Mrs. Dorothy Harris Lathrop
Mrs. Lucretia Hazard Prentiss
Mrs. Mary Hazard Teele
Mrs. Katharine Jones Dawson.
Mrs. Mary Bradford Stone.
Mrs. Virginia Payson Lane.

Average attendance 9.

Resignation.
November 1. Mrs. Cushman.
Election.
January 1913. Mrs. Adkins.

Mrs. Paschal and Mrs. Verrill absent throughout the year.

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Years 1912 – 13.

Lessons began November 13, ended April 9, omitting November 27, December 18, 25, January 1, 1913. 17 Lessons.

Course chosen Shakespeare's Historical Plays.

John, with sketch from William the Norman. Mrs. Robinson.
Richard II. Mrs. Hodges. Sketch, Mrs. Stone.
Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2. Mrs. Stevens.
Henry V. Mrs. Bowen.
Henry VI. Part 1. Mrs. Richards; Part 2. Mrs Pruden; Part 3, Mrs. Stone.
Richard III. Mrs. Ridgway with sketch.
Henry VIII, with sketch. Mrs. Verrill for Mrs Wedderburn.

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Years 1912-13

Mrs. Verrill was chosen Chairman of Program Committee.
Assistants: Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Lane.

Course chosen: Contemporary Drama.

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Fifteenth Year
Years 1913-14.

Members, [in two columns]

Mrs. Verrill.
Mrs. Robertson.
Mrs. Bowen.
Mrs. Richards.
Mrs. Stevens.
Mrs. Hodges.
Mrs. Wedderburn.
Mrs. Ridgway.
Mrs. Pruden.
Mrs. Lathrop.
Mrs. Prentiss.
Mrs. Teele.
Mrs. Dawson.
Mrs. Stone.
Mrs. Lane.
Mrs. Bertha McNaughton Adkins.

Av. attendance 8.

Mrs. Verrill, Mrs. Wedderburn, Mrs. Pruden, Mrs. Teele, Mrs. Lathrop absent throughout the year. Mrs. Verrill, Mrs. Wedderburn, Mrs. Teele, ill.

Mrs. Paschal after an absence of 2 years dropt from the list of members.

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Fifteenth Year.
1913-1914

Lessons began November 15, ended April 8, omitting November 26, December 24, December 31; 20 lessons in all.

Dramas by Contemporary Authors.

Justice – Galsworthy with criticism. Mrs. Ridgway.
The Piper; Peabody. Mrs. Lane.
Herod. Phillips. Mrs. Richards.
Francesca and Paola. Phillips. Mrs. Richards.
Playboy of the Western World. Synge, with life and criticism. Mrs. Robertson.
Hannele. Hauptman. Mrs. Bowen.

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Fifteenth Year.
Years 1913-14.

The Weavers. Hauptman. Mrs. Stone.
Man and Superman. Shaw. Mrs. Stevens.

The class heard Fanny’s First Play at Matinee, so it was not read.

Magda. Suderman. Mrs. Hodges.
Ghosts. Ibsen. Mrs. Adkins.
Pillars of Society. Ibsen. Mrs. Dawson.

Rostando Chantecler and Pinero’s Second Mrs. Tangueray, assigned to Mrs. Teel and Mrs. Wedderburn, omitted.

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Fifteenth Year.
Years 1913-1914.

Mrs. Richards was chosen Chairman. No assistants. Course chosen – Winners of the Nobel Prize for ideal work in Literature.

[page 50 – but not marked as such. All the following page numbers are just for our “modern” reading convenience. From the new handwriting, a different person begins keeping the history.]

Sixteenth Year
Years 1914-1915

Members [in two columns, as usual]

Mrs. Robertson
Mrs. Bowen
Mrs. Richards
Mrs. Stevens
Mrs. Hodges
Mrs. Wedderburn
Mrs. Ridgway
Mrs. Prentiss
Mrs. Teele
Mrs. Dawson
Mrs. Stone
Mrs. Lane
Mrs. Adkins

Lessons began Nov. 11, ended March 24, seventeen lessons in all.

At the first meeting of the season the following resolutions were passed:

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Whereas, on July 3rd, the beloved Founder of this Class, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Verrill, passed from our midst into the life beyond.

Resolved,

That we lovingly acknowledge her leadership, not only as Founder of this Class, but as a member whose ideals have, through many years, guided us in work that has been both a profit and a pleasure. That we record our special admiration of the courage and cheerfulness with which she bore many years of illness, of the unfaltering interest in life and humanity which she maintained through it all, and of the intellectual vigor, which in spite of bodily weakness, stimulated to thought and action those who sought her

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counsel and companionship.

Resolved further,

That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Chevy Chase Reading Class and that copies be sent to the husband, son, and brother of the deceased.

Mary B. Robertson

Committee on Resolutions.

Mrs. Pruden and Mrs. Lathrop, having moved away from Chevy Chase, resigned from the Class. Later Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Adkins resigned.

Mrs. Wedderburn was absent the entire year.

Mrs. Teel was unable on account of illness to attend any meeting except the one at her own home.

Mrs. Elizabeth Watson Merrill was elected to membership on Nov. 11th, and

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in December Mrs. Harriet Powell Ashley and Mrs. Abbie Corbin Cushman.

Nobel Prize Winners in Literature was the subject for the year and the authors studied were: Mistral, Carducci, Prudhomme, Heyse, Bjornson, Sienkiewicz, Kipling, Echegaray, Lagerly, Tagore.

Mrs. Ridgway was elected chairman and chose as her assistants, Mrs. Merrill and Mrs. Robertson. The subjects chosen for the next year were “Walt Whitman” and “Some Contemporary Writers.”

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Seventeenth Year
1915-1916

[in two columns]

Mrs. Robertson
Mrs. Bowen
Mrs. Richards
Mrs. Stevens
Mrs. Hodges
Mrs. Wedderburn
Mrs. Ridgway
Mrs. Prentiss
Mrs. Teele
Mrs. Dawson
Mrs. Lane
Mrs. Bessie Watson Merrill
Mrs. Harriet Powell Ashley

Mrs. Cushman, having permanently left Chevy Chase, was dropped from membership.

Lessons began Nov. 3d and ended March 29th – 18 in all.

Four meetings were devoted to Walt Whitman and included a lecture to which our friends were invited by Mrs. Clara Bewick Colby.

Contemporary writers taken up were Samuel Crothers, John Masefield, Israel Zangwill, Algernon Swinburne, Arthur W. Pinero, Alfred Noyes, Seamus Macmanus and William Watson.

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Eighteenth Year
1916-1917

[two columns]

Mrs. Robertson
Mrs. Bowen
Mrs. Richards
Mrs. Stevens
Mrs. Hodges
Mrs. Ridgway
Mrs. Prentiss
Mrs. Teele
Mrs. Dawson
Mrs. Lane
Mrs. Merrill

Mrs. Ashley
Mrs. William S. Garland

Mrs. Hodges was Chairman and was assisted by Mrs. Ashley and Mrs. [name omitted] “Nature Writers” was the general topic of the year. Four meetings were devoted to John Burroughs, two to Ernest Thompson Setow, three to Dallas Lore Sharp, one to Gene Stratton Porter, three to George Douglas Roberts, one each to Neltje Blancham and Mable Osgood Wright and three to Jean Henri Cassimer Fabre – eighteen in all.

Mrs. Clinton L. Wolcott and Mrs. Carden F. Warner were added to membership.

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Nineteenth Year
1917-1918

Chairman, Mrs. Garland
Assistants,
General topic, Russian Literature.

First meeting October 31, last meeting April 3d.

Authors taken were Madame Olga Novikoff, Peter Kropotkin, M. Trnbezkoi, N.V. Gogol, L.N. Tolstoi, L. Andreyev. V. Soloviev, A.P. Checkov, T.M. Dostoievsky, L.N. Polapenko, M. Gorky, T. Sologob, A. Kuprin, P.N. Milinkoff.

Besides these two days were devoted to Russian poetry and three days to a study of history, customs and characteristics.

Mrs. Frank Persons was added to the Membership. Also Mrs. Jesse Potbury.

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Twentieth Year
1918-1919

Chairman Mrs. Garland
Assistants
Scandinavian Literature. First meeting Oct. 30, last meeting April 2d. Nineteen in all.

Authors taken were Jonas Liil, Bjornstjerne, two days to Liil, and three to Bjornstjerne, Hjalmer Hjorth Boyesen, one day, Henrik Ibsen, four days, John August Strindberg, one day, Selma Lagerlof, three days. Besides this, two days were given to Scandinavian Poetry and two to history and beginnings of literature.

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Twenty-first Year
1919-1920

Mrs. Richards Chairman

This year the novel plan was tried of letting each member select her own writer.

Mrs. William Page Couper, Mrs. Wm. L. Hillyer, Mrs. Charles M. Marsh, Mrs. S.L. Jordidi were added to the membership.

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Twenty-second Year
1920-1921

Chairman, Mrs.

The first meeting was held Oct 27th, the last April 6th – twenty in all.

The year was devoted to Shakespeare, the following plays being read: Cymbaline, Julius Caesar, Comedy of Errors, King Lear, Midsummer Night’s Dream, Othello, As You Like It, Macbeth, Richard II, Taming of the Shrew, Winter’s Tale, King John. Mrs. Jodidi read a Russian translation. Mrs. Persons, having moved away was dropped.

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Twenty-third Year
1912-1922

Chairman, Mrs. Hillyer

Biography and Poetry

First meeting October 26; last, April 5.

Biographies: Juniperro Serra, by William Husdon; Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Titian, by Sandhurst; Lady Mary Wortley Montague by Whartons; William of Orange, Motley’s Dutch Republic; Garibaldi, by A.L. Swinburne; Richard Brinsly Sheridan by Whartons; Victor Hugo, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, by her daughters; Beethoven by Nohl; Adelina Putti by Herman Klein; Li Hung Chang; Cecil Rhodes by Joh Hays Hammond; Lord Kitchener by H. Beglie; Lucretia

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Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony; Alexandra Flodoronna; Joseph H. Chrte by Ed. Sandford Martins. Agassiz.

Three meetings were devoted to poetry, ancient and modern, Homer, Dante, Milton, Byron, Keats, Shelley and a number of more modern poets.

Mrs. Edward N. McLellan and Miss Lucy Mackrille were elected to membership.

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Twenty-fourth Year
1922-1923

Chairman, Mrs. Ashley

Writers of Today

First meeting, November 1; last, March 28.

Authors read during the year were: Joseph Conrad, Gamaliel Bradford, H.G. Wells, Edward John Dunsany, Knut Hamsun, Arthur Symons, James Bryce, William Charles Beebe, Modern English and Irish Poets, Anatole France, Walter Lionel George, Eugene G. O'Neill, Hamlin Garland, Edith Wharton, Villjalmur Stefanson, James Gibbons Huneker, Henry Louis Mencken, Leonard Merrick and American Poets.

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Twenty-fifth Year
1923-1924

Mrs. McClellan, Chairman.

First meeting, October 31st; last March 26.

A varied program of Travel, Economics, Science and Literature with the following authors: James Harvey Robinson, James Gilbane Huniker, Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Norman Angell, Jacinto Benavente, George Bernard Shaw, J. Arthur Thomson, Ethel Sedgwick, Theodore Lothrop Stoddard, Edward Simmone, Joseph Hergesheimer, N. Levi, John Galsworthy, Ferdinand Ossendowsky, Louis Hemon, Thomas Morris Longstreth.

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Twenty-sixth Year
1924-1925

Mrs. Wolcott, Chairman

Contemporary Writers

First meeting, October 22, Last, April 8.

At the first meeting Mrs. Merrill gave a talk on her trip to Europe during the summer. Authors read during the years were: Robert Underwood Johnson, Frank Richardson Kent, G. Stanley Hall, Margaret Wilson, Edwin E. Slosson and William Otis Caldwell, Michael Idvorsky Pupin, Edith Wharton, André Maurois, William Butler Yeats, Robert Frost, Havelock Ellis, William Lyon Phelps, Marie Curie, Arthur S. Hady, Anzia Yezierska.

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Arthur Weigall, Albert Edward Wiggan, Walter Damrosch, Edward Murray East, Mary A. von Arnim.

In February the Class celebrated its Silver Anniversary by an evening party at the home of Mrs. Robertson, with our husbands as guests.