

**Debate Topics, 1878-1880**  
**Decora Prairie Club**

Meetings were held in the Decora Prairie school house.

All topics began with "Resolved":

Original spellings were kept. Following the topic are the 3 judges' decisions.

A stands for Affirmative; N stands for negative

Jan. 3, 1878: That railroads are more *benefit* to the country than water navigations. A

Jan. 10, 1878 That a man enjoys more pleasure in pursuit of an object then when in possession of it. A

Jan. 17, 1878: That a man enjoys more pleasure in a savage life then in a civilized one. N

New officers were chosen: "Total number of votes cast for president, 39."

"Whole number of votes cast for vice president, 61, there being not that many members of the society, motion was made and carried that we vote again for vice president. Motion moved and carried that all the members wishing to vote should carry their votes to the desk. Motion moved and carried that we have order among the boys."  
*(The votes for secretary and treasurer numbered 45. In later meetings the votings numbered in the 30's)*

*Secretary of above was Mary J. Samson*

Jan. 24, 1878: That the late civil war has been a benefit to the United States. A

Jan. 31, 1878: That the good Templars have been a benefit to the country. A

Feb. 7, 1878: That Capital punishment prevents murder. N

Feb. 14, 1878: That the right of suffrage should be prohibited from the unlearned. From the meeting minutes: "Only two of the judges deciding, question was laid over for two weeks."

*Secretary of the above was Agnes Cook*

Feb. 21, 1878: That Columbus should have more honor for discovering America than Washington for defending it. A

Feb. 28, 1878: That women are more addicted to fashion than men. N

March 7, 1878: That the right of suffrage should be prohibited from the unlearned. N

March 14, 1878: That love is a stronger passion than anger. A

*Secretary of the above was Annie Davidson*

March 21, 1878: That a Man will do more for the love of a woman then he will for the love of Money. N

March 28, 1878: That Money is more useful to mankind then Education. A

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Oct. 2012

March 18, 1880: That literary societies have been more benefit than temperance societies. **A**

March 25, 1880: Whether kisses cause love or love causes kisses. **N**

"Motion made and seconded that we pay Robert Oliver \$1.50 to clean the schoolhouse. Motion lost. Motion made and carried that the *secretary* call the roll those in favor of taxing the members to pay for cleaning the school-house yes, contrary no. Roll called. result: yeas 17, noes 14. Moved and carried that each member come here and assist in cleaning the schoolhouse before the commencement of the next term. Moved and carried that we decide this question at our next meeting."

Apr. 1, 1880: A political form of government would be a benefit to the people. **N**

Apr. 8, 1880: That the beauties of nature are more to be admired than the beauties of art. *Secretary of the above was Annie Davidson.*

April 22, 1880: Debate was dispensed with, as none of the debaters were present.

May 6, 1880 That it is more sinful to steal a loaf of bread when hungry than it is to swear. **A**

Motion carried that we adjourn until the first Thursday in June. (but no minutes from that meeting.)

July 1, 1880: That the Grange has been a benefit to the people. **N**

Aug. 5, 1880: No debate: motion made that we adjourn for 2 weeks and elect new officers at that meeting.

Here ends the ledger.

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The numbers following  
the names indicate  
the person's age in  
the census of 1880.

From:  
The secretary's  
minutes of the  
Decora Prairie  
Debate Club

1878 &

1880

~~Siblings~~

Adams. M Noah 50  
Bartlett, Edgar  
Bartlette, George  
Bartlette, Willie  
Bennett, Abbie  
Brown, E(llen) 40.  
Brown, George 49  
Butman, Eric(Erie H. 17  
Butman, ES  
Butman, Eugene S.  
Butman, Mrs. Emma J.  
Butman, Nancy 15  
Butman, Nettie 13  
Cook, Agnes ~~52~~ 18  
Cook, Andrew 12  
Cook, Joseph 16  
Cook, Maggie 22  
Davidson, Annie 20  
Davidson, James 22  
Davidson, John 59  
Davidson, William 19  
Dick, Ellen 22  
Dick, Hellen N.  
Dick, Mary 20  
Duso, Charles 21  
Duso, Henry 23  
Dusow, M (?)  
Gibson, Mr.  
Gibson, Mr. MB  
Glassford, Walter 41  
Gorden, Annie M.  
Grant, Robert  
Grant, Tommy  
Harth, Freddy  
Harth, John  
Harth, JW  
Harth, Mary  
Hoyt, CG  
Hoyt, Cora 22  
Hoyt, Daniel 17  
Hoyt, Jacob 51  
Hoyt, Julie Ursula 20  
Hoyt, Lucian 14  
Hoyt, Lucian 14  
Hoyt, Mrs. JB Sarah 44  
Hoyt, Myrlie ?  
Hunter, AG  
Hunter, Arthur  
Hunter, JG  
Hunter, Johnnie?  
Hunter, Libbie  
Hunter, Peter 12  
Hunter, Sibbie  
Hunter, Thomas  
Hunter, Walter  
Irvine, Kate 19  
Irvine, Maggie 18  
Irvine, Mary 16  
Irvine, Walter 20  
Irvine, Thomas 22  
Lawrence, Louis  
Lee, Anton  
Linn, Berty or Bert Lynn  
Ethelbert, 21  
McMillan, Neal  
Mosher, Viictor  
Oliver, Jennie 15  
Oliver, Maggie 13  
Oliver, RA 57  
Oliver, Robert 28  
Oliver, Sarah 23  
Oliver, William 19  
Park, Mary 17 George &  
Agnes daughter  
Rand, GB  
Rand, JB  
Rand, TB  
Rand, Thomas B.  
Root, D  
Root, Dell  
Samson, Alexander 17  
Samson, Mary J.  
Samsom, James  
Shonat, Mr. George B,  
70  
Smith, James  
Smith, William 27  
Thomas, Walter

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