



Enduring Families Project: Children's Stories

Fiscal Sponsor:
La Crosse County Historical Society

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES

The U.S. Constitution did not give women power to shape the new country as **voters**, so they found other ways to contribute. Women worked together on different causes outside politics. The groups they formed were known as **benevolent societies**.

Some benevolent societies focused on religious causes, like funding missions and running Sunday schools. Some provided a place for women to work for **social justice** causes, like the **abolition** of slavery and women's right to vote.

Many societies provided services for people in need. The New York Orphan **Asylum** is a famous charitable benevolent society. It was founded in 1806 to provide a safe home for and to educate children who lost their parents. The founders of the NY Orphan Asylum were all mothers, so they knew how to care for children. But running the asylum required that they raise money, promote their plan, navigate legal requirements, and manage the day-to-day operations of the institution.

These jobs were traditionally reserved for men. However, no one disapproved of women running the orphanage because taking care of children was within women's **socially acceptable responsibilities**. At this time within the family structure women oversaw religion, education and raising of children.

In benevolent societies around the country women learned the skills needed to make lasting change. They soon applied these lessons to larger, more political—and more dangerous—causes like abolition.

1. **benevolent societies.**
2. **Abolition**
3. **Asylum**
4. **socially acceptable responsibilities**

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ALTON OBSERVER.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1837.

REV. ELIJAH PARISH LOVEJOY,
late Editor of the Alton Observer, an AMERICAN CITIZEN, and a Minister of the Gospel, who, for the *crime* of maintaining the rights of speech, the rights of the press, and the rights of the slave, was PUBLICLY MURDERED in the CITY OF ALTON, on the night of the Seventh of November,

He died
A MARTYR
on
THE ALTAR
of
AMERICAN LIBERTY,
1837.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

https://madison.illinoisgenweb.org/lovejoy/lovejoy_elijah.html

DEATH OF JOSEPH DIETCHEY.---Jos. Dietchy, who fell from Steiner's barn, last week, and received spinal injuries, died Saturday afternoon. He leaves quite a large family to mourn his death. He had, as we are informed, a \$2,500 life policy in the Odd Fellows' Insurance Association. The funeral took place from the family residence, near the corner of Fifth and Henry streets, at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, under the auspices of I. O. O. F. and the German Benevolent Society.

Primary Resources come from the Alton Observer * and Alton Telegraph these dates (matching the order of articles) 12/28/1837*, 5/20/1880, 2/12/1868 and 12/18/1864

To the Union League and Aid Societies,
we appeal most earnestly...may we
expect a box or package of articles for the
fair? Anything will be acceptable....

Who will bring the first load or bushel of
potatoes, onions, cabbages, wheat,
canned fruit, pickles; or anything?
Nothing will be amiss. But let everyone
to whom this appeal comes to do
something!...

The Committee appointed to receive
them are Mrs. Scarritt, Mrs. Davis, and
Mrs. Mathews; and Mrs. Tribble of Upper
Alton.

To the Union Leagues and Aid Societies, we appeal most earnestly. May we not expect from every Union League and Aid Society, in the counties in our vicinity a box or package of articles for the Fair? Anything will be acceptable. Let each and all do something for this occasion. For our country friends who would esteem it a privilege to aid in the good cause, we have appointed Mr. P. B. Winters to receive anything which they may wish to furnish.

Who will bring the first load or bushel of potatoes, onions, cabbage, wheat, canned fruit, pickles; or anything? Nothing will be amiss? But let every one to whom this appeal comes do something!

It would facilitate the labors of the Committee of Arrangements, if the donations of fancy articles could be forwarded to them as early as the 15th of February.

The Committee appointed to receive them are Mrs. Scarritt, Mrs. Davis, and Mrs. Mathews; and Mrs. Tribble of Upper Alton.

COLD WEATHER.- Last night was the coldest weather experienced in this locality. The mercury, in some parts of the city, touched below zero. The air was clear and still, and the cold intense.

We do not recall an instance when the weather has been so severe in this locality, so early in the season. Our coldest weather generally occurs from December 25th to January 15th, but this stinging early call from the ice king is unprecedented.

During the continuance of this cold spell the poor of the city will suffer terribly, and the ladies of the benevolent society will doubtless have all they can do to relieve the suffering immediately at their doors.

COLD WEATHER.- Last night was one of the coldest ever experienced in this locality. The mercury, in some parts of the city, touched 14° below zero. The air was clear and still, and the cold intense. We do not recall an instance when the weather has been as severe in this locality, so early in the season. Our coldest weather generally occurs from December 25th to January 15th, but this stinging early call from the ice king is unprecedented.

During the continuance of this cold spell the poor of the city will suffer terribly, and the ladies of the benevolent society will doubtless have all they can do to relieve the suffering immediately at their doors.

George Edwin
Taylor is already
in La Crosse