

## Secretary's book for Moneka Woman's Rights Association

This volume contains the minutes of meetings for the Moneka Woman's Rights Association. It also includes the organization's preamble, constitution, and list of members. Members were both male and female. Officers were elected quarterly. Most meetings consisted of an address and discussion of a particular question related to women's rights issues. They addressed letters to territorial constitutional conventions and to the Kansas Legislature and supported the work of Clarina (Mrs. C. I. H.) Nichols.

Creator: Moneka Woman's Rights Association

Date: Between 1858 and 1860

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Secretary's book for Moneka Woman's Rights Association

*Secretary's Book  
The Moneka Woman's Rights  
Association*

## Secretary's book for Moneka Woman's Rights Association

Moneka Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 1858-

After one of Mr. J. C. Wallis lectures  
a proposition was made to  
organize a Women's Rights Society.

Mrs. Esther Wallis was chosen  
President. A committee to form  
a constitution was chosen.

The meeting then adjourned  
to meet here Feb 13<sup>th</sup>.

Moneka Feb 13<sup>th</sup> -

Meeting was called to order by  
Mr J. C. Wallis. A President and  
Secretary pro-tem were elected.

The report of a committee on  
a constitution was called for  
read and accepted. The constitution  
was then read and discussed, and  
adopted by article by article.



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Preamble and Constitution  
of the  
Moneka Women's Rights Association.

Because, Woman is constituted of body and  
Mind and has all the common wants  
of the one and the natural powers of the other.  
Because she ~~has~~ is a social being and  
has all the relations of life to sustain  
which belong to an Associated condition  
of existence - and  
Because she is a progressive being  
ever out-growing the present past  
and demanding a higher and greater  
Future - or in other words,  
Because she is a Human Being and as such  
is endowed by her Creator with the full  
measure of human rights whether edu-  
cational, social or political; and  
Because by the present arrangement of the  
world and <sup>she is shut out</sup> the higher order of educational  
institutions, thereby deprived of great  
opportunities for intellectual improvement



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- Shut out from most of the lucrative professions and the mechanic arts, thereby deprived of the facilities for the accumulation of wealth and enjoyment of social life, — made subject to laws which she has no voice in making and which deprive her of the ownership of property & of herself, and give even her daily earnings to the control of others; dragged before courts to answer for crimes, against laws to which she has never given her assent, to be tried as a criminal in Halls ~~in~~ ~~Halls~~ where she can neither sit as judge or juror, or officiate as counsel: and

Because, from the Pulpit and the Rostrum woman is called upon to give character to the rising generation and charged with the responsibility of shaping the destiny of the race,

Because she is demanded to make statesmen to wield the fate of Nations, and divines to wake the word to glory,

We therefore form ourselves into an Association to be governed by the following Constitution



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### Article First -

This association shall be called  
The Moneka Women's Rights Society

### Article Second -

It shall be the object of the Society  
to secure to woman her natural  
rights and to advance her  
educational interests. In furtherance  
of these objects the Soc. shall consider  
what woman's natural rights ~~rights~~  
are, and the means best calculated  
to secure them. It shall also encour-  
age lectures on this subject in the  
Society and elsewhere; and give its  
support to some paper devoted to the  
elevation of Woman

### Article Third

The officers of the Society shall be a  
President. Vice Pres. Secretary corres-  
ponding Sec. and Treasurer <sup>who</sup> and shall  
perform the duties usually ascribed  
to such offices. Officers shall be  
elected quarterly by ballot, a



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majority of votes constituting a choice  
Article 4<sup>th</sup>

The regular meetings of the Society shall be held Monthly. And other meetings may be held as often as the wishes of the Society require it. At the regular meetings an address shall be given by some member of the society appointed at a previous regular meeting. After which some question previously agreed upon shall be discussed by the members

### Article Fifth.

The first Anniversary shall be on the last Wednesday in Sept. At which time addresses lectures and discussions on the various subjects connected with the rights of women and of progression in general shall be given.

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### Article Sixth

Terms of membership shall be a mutual agreement in the objects of the Society, the signing of the Constitution and paying twenty five cents into the Treasury

### Article Seventh.

The Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any regular meeting, notice having been given at a previous regular meeting

Elvira Andrews

Esther Wattles

Elizabeth S. Denxison

Mollie A. McGrath

Emma Wattles

Samelia Doy

Sarah G. Wattles

Susan E. Wattles

Lima S. H. Ober

Angelina P. Crystal

Rebecca E. Hulbert

Mary P. T. Snyder



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Ann Schooley  
Huldah A. Goodwin  
Matilda S. Gibbons  
R. W. Gibbons  
Joseph Addis.  
Bertha E. Kenop  
Charlotte Smith  
Rhoda W. Ransom

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Geo E Denison  
 Mabel Bates  
 Hannah Strong  
 W. P. Danforth  
 J. W. Stearns.  
 U. E. Morse  
 L. E. Cheerer  
 Emma S. Burritt  
 John C. Anderson  
 R. A. Frazell  
 John Morrison  
 E. L. Taylor  
 Thomas J. Addis Jr.  
 Lyman Strong  
 Hamilton Schooley  
 J. A. Craig  
 Thos. J. Addis Sr.  
 Timothy Garlbert  
 P. Frazell  
 Charlotte S. Anderson  
 Aggie Lefker  
 Hetty Giddens -



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The following officers were then elected  
Pres. Mrs Elizabeth S. Denison  
Vice Pres Mrs Esther Wattles  
Sec. Sarah G. Wattles

The following resolutions were then  
offered and adopted.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Resolved That we will exert whatever influence we can over the public sentiment of this Territory that the Constitution about to be formed may prohibit the distillation of all alcoholic liquors within its boundaries
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Res. That we will invite to our Territory such women lecturers as are accustomed to public speaking to labor with us in procuring this desirable end and we will sustain them when they come.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Resolved That Kansas cannot be truly



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free while the words "white" or "male" are found within the limit of her constitution.

2<sup>nd</sup> Res. That the Secretary be instructed to correspond with the Editor of the Lillie and ascertain what tracts are on hand, if any, that treat of Women's Rights &c and ascertain on what terms they can be obtained.

Miss Mollie A. Mc Grath was then appointed to deliver an address at the next meeting. Question for discussion at the next meeting.

Resolved. That all human beings by virtue of their physical organizations have a right to as much of the earth as they can cultivate and no more.

On motion the Society adjourned to meet at this place two weeks from to day at 2 o'clock P. M.

Sarah G. Waller Sec.



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Moneka Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 1858

The Society met according to previous adjournment. Meeting was called to order, Minutes of preceeding meeting were called for read and adopted. The Constitution was called for and read. Corresponding Sec. & Treasurer were then elected.

Susan E. Wattleb Cor. Sec.

Pamela Doy Treasurer

The following was offered and adopted  
Whereas woman can not vote and yet feel the necessity of just laws, therefore  
Res. That every woman in Kansas who believes that equal rights belong to women should consider herself a committee of one whose duty it is to do all in her power to convert to her views at least one legal voter.

The following forms of petition were then presented.



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To the Constitutional Convention  
We the undersigned citizens of Kansas  
respectfully petition the Convention now  
assembled to frame the organic law  
of the State of Kansas for the citizens  
without any invidious distinctions

To the Legislature of Kansas,  
We the undersigned citizens of Kansas  
respectfully petition your honorable  
body to enact such laws

- 1<sup>st</sup> As will secure to woman the property  
which she possesses before marriage
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Also a just proportion of the joint  
property of the husband & wife  
acquired during marriage.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Also at the death of the husband or wife  
that the same laws shall govern the widow  
or widower in the possession and  
disposal of the estate and children  
belonging to them jointly.
- 4<sup>th</sup> That no bond or security given <sup>by the</sup>  
~~husband~~ another shall be valid without the



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signature of the wife

After some discussion it was  
Res. That we accept & adopt these  
forms of petition for circulation

Res. That we respectfully ask the  
co-operation of other ladies of Kansas  
in circulating these petitions

Res. That these forms of petition and  
the resolutions be sent to the "Herald  
of Freedom," Lawrence Republican" &  
"Topeka Tribune" with the request  
that they publish them and that  
other papers copy them.

Miss Mollie Mc Grath then read an  
address. Her subject was "Why should  
woman seek to change her present  
condition" The question,

Resolved That all human beings have a  
by virtue of their physical organization have  
a right to as much of the earth as they can culti-  
vate and no more, was discussed

Question chosen for next meeting, that women  
should seek to enter into more lucrative



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employments or prepare themselves for professional life.

Mrs. L. C. Ober was appointed to deliver an address at the next meeting.

On motion the Soc. adjourned to meet here two weeks from to day

Sarah G. Wattles Sec  
Moneka March 13<sup>th</sup> 1888

Soc. met according to adjournment. Sec. report read and adopted The Constitution was read On motion it was,

Resolved That the President and <sup>Corresponding</sup> Recording Sec constitute a committee to receive the petitions to the Constitutional Convention and forward it to some member of that body. The address was delivered by Mrs L. C. Ober Mrs. Lucy Stone's lecture on taxation was read by Mrs Susan E Wattles

On motion the discussion was postponed to the next meeting

Mrs S. E Wattles was appointed to address the Society at the next meeting. Soc. adjourned to meet here four weeks from to day at 2 P. M.

Sarah G. Wattles Sec.



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Moneka April 10<sup>th</sup> 1858

Soc. met according to adjournment  
Minutes of previous meeting read and  
adopted

The address was read by Mrs Susan E Wattles,  
The Subject, Deficiencies in woman's Education,  
Question was then discussed.

Esther Wattles appointed to address  
Soc. at next meeting Adjourned for 4 weeks

S. E. Wattles Sec

Moneka May 8<sup>th</sup>

Soc. met per adjournment Sec. report  
was called for read and adopted,

The election of officers resulted as follows

Pres. Mrs. Mary J. Snyder  
Vice Pres. Miss Mollie A McGrath  
Treas. Mrs. Esther Wattles  
Sec. Mrs. Lima C. Ober  
Cor. Sec. Mrs. Susan E. Wattles

The address was read by Mrs. Esther Wattles  
Subject The formation of character  
Question discussed Cor. Sec read a letter  
from Mrs C. J. H. Nichols of Quindaro

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concerning a state organization of the  
woman's movement, also her reply to it.  
Sarah G. Wattles was appointed to read the  
address at the next meeting.

Soc then adjourned for four weeks  
Sara G. Wattles Sec.  
+

Moneka June 5<sup>th</sup> 1858

Our Hall being occupied by a protracted  
meeting the Soc. adjourned. S. G. W. Sec.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> The celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> day (tomorrow  
being Sunday) causes us to adjourn one week

S. G. Wattles Sec.

Moneka July 10<sup>th</sup>

Soc. met according to adjournment

Vice Pres. in the chair. Sec. report called  
for read and adopted, but few present.

Society adjourned to meet on Wednesday  
Sept 29<sup>th</sup> the time for the annual meeting

Sarah G. Wattles Sec.



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For consequence of sickness the Society  
did not meet at the time of adjournment.

Moneka, Apr. 17 1859.

Society met & organized by choosing  
Mrs. Dennison President pro. tem.

A letter was read from Mrs. L. F. W.  
Nichols, in which she expressed her  
interest in the cause of Women's  
Rights in Kan. & the necessity of  
having an agent to speak before  
the Constitutional Convention.

Res. To send to Mrs. N. for the  
forms of petition she would like to  
present to Con. Con.

Res.— That we request the Cor. Sec.  
to write to Wendell Phillips asking  
him to appropriate a part of the  
fund in his ~~possession~~ hands to  
sustain lecturers & advance the cause  
of Women's Rights in Kansas.



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Read the constitution. Mrs. Strong  
joined the Society.

Res. - That F. O. Mattles be requested  
to address the Society at the next meeting  
Question - Shall we petition for  
special rights or shall we ask for  
equal rights for all.

Adjourned subject to call of members.

Moneka May 13<sup>th</sup> 1859

Society Met & organized by appointing  
Mrs Denison President pro-tem  
Minutes of the preceding meeting  
read & adopted. George E Denison &  
John B. Mattles joined the society

The Sec then read the following  
form of petition prepared by Mrs  
Mrs. Nichols of Lunindaro

Petition

To the Constitutional Convention of Kansas  
Greeting We the undersigned citizens



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of Kansas Territory do respectfully represent to your Honorable Body that, whereas, the women of the State have individually an evident common interest with its men in the protection of life, liberty, property and intelligent culture; and whereas by inherent laws and the "universal consent of mankind" their inalienable relations to humanity do involve them in greater and more complicated responsibilities; and whereas, in virtue of these common interests and responsibilities, they have pressing needs of all the Legal and Constitutional guarantees enjoyed by any class of citizens - and whereas the enjoyment of these guarantees involves the possession of equal political rights -

Therefore we the undersigned being of full age, do respectfully petition and protest against any constitutional distinctions based on difference of



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sep. To this end your petitioners will  
ever pray

Res That we will circulate this petition  
and request Mrs. Nichols to present  
the same to the Constitutional  
Convention

Res That we most earnestly invite  
and urge the friends of progress in  
the Territory to co-operate with  
us in circulating petitions; requesting  
that they also will forward them to  
Mrs C. J. H. Nichols of Leindaro, that she  
may receive them by the 25 of June  
without fail

Res That an abstract of the proceed-  
ings of this meeting be published  
in the Linon County Herald and that  
other Kansas papers be requested  
to copy

Res That we adjourn to meet on  
Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 o'clock A.M.  
& that the lecture which was spec-  
ted today be delivered at that time

Esther Wattle Sec Protg



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Moneka May 21<sup>st</sup>.

There not being a quorum present  
the meeting adjourned to the call  
of the officers

Cottage Hill July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1849

The Meeting was organized by  
appointing J. H. Stearns President  
Protem & E. Wattle secretary Protem  
J. O. Wattle then gave a full & satis-  
factory report of his labors for the  
elevation of woman & his success  
in procuring names to our petition

Susan E. Wattle then presented  
the following resolution which  
was read & accepted

Res. That we request John O. Wattle  
to act as our agent for soliciting Kansas & also  
to attend the con. convention and  
co-operate with Mrs Nichols  
in advancing the cause of Woman's  
rights, edj to meet at the call of the  
officers

E. Wattle sec

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Moneka. July. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1859.

The Society met as per call, and organized by the appointment of Susan E. Wattle as President & of H. Kearns, Secretary. Minutes of the last meeting read and approved. The Constitution was read and circulated for signatures. J. O. Wattle made some remarks with regard to it, its objects and designs, and gave a report of his mission and success at the Constitutional Convention. The following resolutions were then offered and adopted.

1<sup>st</sup>. Res - That we cordially invite Mrs C. L. H. Nichols to attend the Woman's Rights Convention, to be held at this place, Sep 7<sup>th</sup>/59. & - that we



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take into consideration the propriety of holding several conventions in Southern Kansas immediately after that time.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Res. That the frivolous objections offered by the opponents of Woman's Rights, show that <sup>(to)</sup> such objections are not based upon reason, and are therefore of no avail, and that we gather courage therefrom to hope and expect the speedy triumph of justice and the Right.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Res. That the corresponding secretary be instructed to open a correspondence with the friends of our cause at the East and elsewhere for the purpose of securing managed funds for the <sup>purchase</sup> ~~purpose~~ of a prep. for the use of Mrs C. J. Nichols to be established at Moneka or some other suitable point in the Territory.

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Mrs Pierpont was requested to lecture before the Society, four weeks from date.

The subject of, "How can Woman increase her sphere of usefulness or productive industry" was selected for investigation by the Society at the same date.

Adj. to meet Friday Aug-  
19<sup>th</sup>.

J. W. Stearns.  
Sec, Pro, Gen.  
H H H

Moneka Aug 19<sup>th</sup>/55

Society met as per adjournment and organized by the appointment of Miss E. S. Burritt, Pres and J. W. Stearns, secretary Pro Tem

On motion adjourned to Sep 7<sup>th</sup>.

J. W. Stearns.  
Sec Pro Tem



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Moneka Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 1859

The Society met at the call of  
the officer and organized electing  
Mrs Susan O. Wallis Pres. and

Emma Wallis Sec. Pro-tem

The following forms of petition  
were then presented  
To the Honorable Senate and  
House of Representatives of the  
State of Kansas

We the undersigned, Petitioners,  
inhabitants of Kansas male and  
female having attained the  
age of legal majority believing  
that Women both married and  
single should enjoy the same  
rights as men, in regard to the  
holding, conveying, and <sup>devising</sup> ~~disposit~~  
ing of real and personal prop-  
erty, and the guardianship of  
children, do earnestly request

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your Honorable Bodies to frame  
the Laws of the State of Kansas  
in these particulars so as to  
fully establish the legal equality  
of Women with men

To the Honorable Senate and House  
of Representatives of the State  
of Kansas

Whereas Governments derive their  
just power from the consent of the  
Governed, we your Petitioners male  
and female inhabitants of Kansas  
do earnestly request of your Honorable  
Bodies to propose to the people  
of the State such amendments  
of the Constitution of the State  
as will secure to females an equal  
right to the Elective Franchise  
with males



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After some discussion it was  
Resolved that we accept and adopt these  
forms of petition for circulation  
The Society then adjourned to  
meet at the Academy in Moneka  
on Saturday the 7th day of Jan. 1860

Emma Waller Sec. Pro Tem  
J. E. Waller Pres. Pro Tem

Moneka Jan 7th 1860

Society met per adjournment, singing  
Geo. E. Denison Presdt. Pro Tem. and  
E. S. Denison Sec. Pro Tem. - Proceedings  
of the previous meeting presented and ap-  
proved. Reading of the Constitution was  
followed by an Election of officers resulting  
for President Mrs. E. S. Denison  
Vice President Mrs. M. A. Taylor  
Secretary Miss Emma Waller  
Cor. Secretary Mrs. J. E. Waller  
Treasurer Mrs. Esther Waller  
A Resolution was offered and accepted

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that Mrs. C. J. H. Nichols be requested to attend the Ter. Leg. for the purpose of advancing our cause as far as practicable.

The usual discussion was laid over to next meeting - Treasurer's report called for and approved by society - Motion made and sustained for adjournment - subject to the call of the officers subsequent to close of the Ter. Legislature.

Elizabeth S. Denison Sec. Pro Tem

Moneka May 25<sup>th</sup> 1860

Society met at call of the officers. Called to order by the President. Minutes of previous meeting called for read and approved.

Constitution was then read and circulated for signatures. The following resolution was then offered and adopted

Res. That we wish to employ Mrs. C. J. H. Nichols to lecture on Women's Rights in Kansas and we authorize our Cor. Sec. to employ her and pay her out of the funds in our Treas.



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may. The Soc. then adjourned to meet at  
the call of the officers.  
Emma Wallis Sec.  
Mrs E. V. Demmon Pres.