

**FRANCES E.W. HARPER LITERARY  
AND SOCIAL CIRCLE (SAVANNAH, GA.)  
Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social  
Circle (Savannah, Ga.) record book, 1915-1929**

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-6887  
rose.library@emory.edu

---

### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social Circle (Savannah, Ga.)  
**Title:** Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social Circle (Savannah, Ga.) record book, 1915-1929  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 986  
**Extent:** 1 linear ft. (1 box)  
**Abstract:** Record book of the Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social Circle, an organization of African American women in Savannah, Georgia, from 1915-1929.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

---

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on access**

Unrestricted access.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### **Source**

Purchase, 2002.

#### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social Circle (Savannah, Ga.) record book, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### **Processing**

Processed by Elizabeth Russey, July 17, 2004.

---

*Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.*

## **Collection Description**

### **Historical Note**

The Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social Circle was founded around 1900 by a group of African American women living in Savannah, Georgia. The organization was named for Frances E.W. Harper, a poet that frequently lectured for the abolitionist cause prior to the Civil War and an author of the first published story by an African American. The women of the Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social Circle, who met bimonthly, listened to lectures and music; read and discussed works of literature, especially those by African Americans; and occasionally went on outings outside Savannah. The circle had about twenty members, who each paid dues of five cents at every meeting, with appropriate fines for absences. In addition to paying for outings in this manner, they regularly gave a portion of the circle's dues to charities such as the Urban League and the local hospital.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the record book of the Frances E.W. Harper Literary and Social Circle of Savannah, Georgia from 1915-1929. The record book contains the minutes for each meeting, recorded by the secretary of the organization; financial records concerning payment of dues and costs for outings; and occasional committee reports. Of particular interest are the reports of the Anniversary Committee, which contain the budget for the yearly occasion in detail. The outing was not held in 1928 due to a shortage of cash and the closing of the banks in Savannah.

The majority of the entries in the minute book are relatively brief, listing the activities of each meeting, including location, membership disputes, officer elections, and other business, but giving few details. The titles of the books the group read are rarely mentioned. The last entry in the record book is on October 4, 1929.

## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Record book, 1915-1929

---