

**LINNE LYCEUM OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
RECORDS, 1845-1848**

**SKILLMAN LIBRARY
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On December 23, 1845 sixteen students met in Mathematical Hall to form one of the earliest extra-curricular study groups at Lafayette College. Dedicated to “the promotion of the natural sciences,” the group was named the Linne Lyceum of Lafayette College on January 21, 1846 in honor of the Swedish botanist Karl von Linne. Washington McCartney, Professor of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Astronomy, sponsored the group.

The lyceum’s regular meetings took place in Prayer Hall, above the Model School. Members took turns lecturing on topics such as cold and warm blooded animals, Mineralogy, Geology, and Botany.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Linne Lyceum records (1845-1848) consist of an account book and a minute book of the organization. The account book dates 1846-1847 and records membership dues, initiation fees, fines levied against non-attending members, and fees for badges and medals. The account book also includes “Treasurer’s Reports” which detail “money received” and “money paid out.” The minute book dates 1845-1848 and records the meeting activities of the lyceum, membership rolls, and lists of lecture topics. An “Account of the Meteorological Expenses, 1871-1877” is on a loose piece of paper, filed inside the front cover of the minute book.

INVENTORY

Box 1 of 1

Folder

- 1 Account Book of the Linne Lyceum, 1846-1847
- 2 Minute Book of the Linne Lyceum, 1845-1848