Jane Rooker Smith Breeden was born 15 November 1853 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to James Rooker and Sara McCann Smith. When she was four years old, the family moved to Arcola, Illinois. Jane was educated at home and in schools in Arcola and Philadelphia. At age twenty-two, she began teaching in a rural school near Arcola, and she continued to teach in the area for seven years before her marriage.

Jane Rooker Smith married James Knox Breeden, a lawyer, on 26 September 1883. Jane Smith Breeden was active socially and civically and also assisted her husband in his Arcola law office. She was especially interested in the temperance movement and served on a committee that secured passage of laws requiring temperance instruction in Illinois schools. In 1892, the Breeden family moved to South Dakota and homesteaded 3½ miles north of Fort Pierre along the Missouri River in Stanley County. Four years later, they moved to Pierre, where James Breeden was a county judge and a member of the city council.

Jane Breeden continued her social and civic activities in South Dakota. As a member of the Fort Pierre Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), she became involved in the woman
suffrage movement. She was soon “convinced that the ballot was the foremost means by which women’s influence could be translated into public action, and from that time the effort she expended in civic affairs was chiefly directed toward obtaining equal suffrage for women” (“Daughters of Dakota,” South Dakota Historical Collections 33 [1966]:76). In South Dakota, a split developed between those who felt the campaign for temperance and suffrage should be a united one and those who felt the two issues should be treated separately. Breeden, although a strong WCTU member, was in the latter camp. She believed that the antagonism against temperance could only hurt the woman suffrage movement, and that once women won the vote, they would be able to establish temperance by exercising their right to vote. Consequently, she directed her effort toward equal suffrage. She served as chairwoman of the press committee of the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association (SDESA), as president of her local SDESA chapter, and as a member of the committee that steered suffrage bills through the state legislature. She also organized women throughout the state in attempts to secure the passage of equal suffrage amendments by the voters. The suffrage amendment finally passed in South Dakota in 1918.

Jane Breeden was also involved in the social life of Pierre and helped establish many social and cultural groups. She was a member of the Dickens Club, serving as perpetual vice-president of the organization. She was also a member of the woman’s study group known as the Round Table, which, under her direction, became the Woman’s Club of Pierre. As an active clubwoman, Breeden advocated the establishment of the State Federation of Women’s Clubs and saw it become a reality.

The Breedens had three children, Majorie, Harold Rooker, and James Reuel. After the death of Judge Breeden in 1937, Jane and her daughter moved to California, where Harold Rooker Breeden and his family lived. Jane Breeden died in Compton, California, in 1955.

The Breeden Papers at the South Dakota Historical Resource Center concern Jane Breeden’s woman suffrage and temperance activities and the social organizations she belonged to. The papers have been arranged into six series: Correspondence, 1888-1910; Woman Suffrage, 1888-1910; Temperance, 1874-1908; Social Life, 1896-1932; World War I Anti-German Propaganda, 1916-1918; and Miscellany.

The correspondence mainly concerns the woman suffrage movement and contains many letters from the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) written by well-known
suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt. As part of her job as chairwoman of the press committee of the SDES, Breeden also corresponded with newspapers in the state that were willing to publish woman suffrage press releases. In addition to correspondence, the Breeden collection contains numerous publications concerning the woman suffrage movement nationally and in South Dakota. The NAWSA publications National Suffrage Bulletin and Woman Suffrage Leaflet as well as the Bulletin and the Columbian, both South Dakota suffragist publications, are included in the collection. A variety of other pamphlets and leaflets distributed by the NAWSA are also present. Finally, the woman suffrage material in the Breeden Papers contains some records of the South Dakota "Votes for Women" Committee. This organization ran the campaign for passage of a woman suffrage amendment to the South Dakota Constitution during the 1910 election.

Breeden's interest in the temperance movement is also reflected in her papers. This material includes WCTU publica-

Jane Breeden, a member of the Pierre Dickens Club, is standing at far right in the top row of this picture of the club's 1911 costume party. Her daughter, Majorie, is the first woman from the left in the second row of standing figures.
tions and the minutes, annual reports, and proceedings of national, Illinois, and South Dakota temperance meetings. Of special interest are two issues of the South Dakota temperance newspaper the *Exodus*.

Material on the various social clubs of which Breeden was a member is arranged under the title Social Life. Four clubs are represented by a folder or more of material: the Dickens Club, the Round Table, the South Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Woman's Club of Pierre. A large portion of this series is composed of yearbooks detailing the membership and activities of the organizations. Also included is a folder of miscellaneous invitations, calling cards, and programs of banquets, concerts, and entertainments from Pierre and Arcola.

The World War I Anti-German Propaganda consists of pamphlets and articles from a variety of sources, including the Committee on Public Information. Such items as *The Kaiserite in America: One Hundred and One German Lies* and *The German-Bolshevik Conspiracy* are representative of the type of material in this series.

The final series is a miscellaneous combination of pamphlets and newspaper clippings on a variety of unrelated topics. Jane Breeden's daughter, Marjorie, was the first woman to graduate with a law degree from the University of South Dakota, and the collection contains several items concerning the university. Two issues of the *Monthly South Dakotan* contain articles on women's clubs, one by Jane Rooker Breeden and one by Alice R. Gossage. Much of the miscellaneous material concerns the city of Pierre, its residents, and local activities. A pamphlet entitled *Picturesque Pierre* includes photographs of turn-of-the-century buildings, many of which no longer exist. Most of the newspaper clippings in this series also concern Pierre. Of special interest is a one-page article from an 1890 *Chicago Times* about "Progressive Pierre." This material could prove useful to researchers working on Pierre's upcoming centennial.

It should be noted that other woman suffrage material, some of which probably came from Jane Breeden, can be found in the collection entitled Woman Suffrage Movement in South Dakota, which is also housed at the Historical Resource Center. For more information about the Breeden Papers or other manuscript collections, contact the Manuscript Curator, South Dakota Historical Resource Center, Memorial Building, Pierre, SD 57501; telephone, (605)-773-4372.
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