

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY

# *Literary Societies*

1850-1955

**The purpose of the society is to make possible for its members a development of the intellectual and expressive powers, of ability in executive leadership, and of the keener and more discriminating appreciation of the best in literature and music.**

*-1917 Gem*

**In 1850, Taylor students organized the Thalonian Literary Society, named after the Greek philosopher Thales and bearing the motto “Know Thyself.”**

In 1878, another group of students organized the Philaethean Literary Society, its name meaning “Lovers of Truth” in Greek. Both organizations were open to men and women in order to improve literary skills through exercises such as debating, reading, writing essays, reciting choice selections, and playing music. In later years, each society had its own athletic teams to compete against one another. However, due to a decrease in monthly attendance and poor social planning, the literary societies were disbanded in 1955.