
Guide to the Foresters of America. Court Concordia, No. 119 (Sacramento, Calif.) and Court Sacramento, No. 12 (Sacramento, Calif.) records

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Foresters of America. Court Concordia, No. 119 (Sacramento, Calif.) and Court Sacramento, No. 12 (Sacramento, Calif.) records

Dates: 1881-1960

Collection number: MS0016

Creator: Foresters of America. Court Concordia, No. 119 (Sacramento, Calif.)

Creator: Foresters of America. Court Sacramento, No. 12 (Sacramento, Calif.)

Collection Size: 13 linear feet (14 boxes + 6 volumes)

Repository: Center for Sacramento History

Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: The Foresters of America Court Concordia, No. 119 (Sacramento, Calif.) and Court Sacramento, No. 12 (Sacramento, Calif.) collection is comprised primarily of meeting minutes and financial records of the Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 and Court Sacramento No. 12 from 1884-1960. The Foresters of America (F of A) was an American fraternal and benevolent organization that supported its membership with medical assistance, weekly sick benefits, burial benefits and support during times of unemployment or hardship. The Foresters of America also had social benefits, along with the financial. Its motto was "Liberty, Unity, Benevolence and Concord."

Physical location: 2:A:2-4

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: EnglishGerman

Access

Collection is open for research use.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and/or item number], [box and folder number], Foresters of America. Court Concordia, No. 119 (Sacramento, Calif.) and Court Sacramento, No. 12 (Sacramento, Calif.) records, MS0016, Center for Sacramento History.

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Heinz Ludke and the Sacramento Turn Verein. It includes administrative records, ledgers, minutes, financial records, photographs and certificates dating from 1884 -1960. Accession number: 2008/036.

Processing Information

Processing and finding aid by Lynn Aiello, 2019.

Biography / Administrative History

The Foresters of America (F of A) was an American fraternal and benevolent organization that supported its membership with medical assistance, weekly sick benefits, burial benefits and support during times of unemployment or hardship. The Foresters of America also had social benefits, along with the financial. Its motto was "Liberty, Unity, Benevolence and Concord." A member of a Court became a member of the organization regardless of location, meaning that benefits moved with the member, a novel feature at the time and one that inspired the inception of the Royal Foresters at Knaresborough Castle, England in 1745. In 1834, its name was changed to the Ancient Order of Foresters. By 1874, the Canadian and American branches separated from the Ancient Order of Foresters to form the Independent Order of Foresters, headquartered in Canada. Separation from British friendly society administration was completed by 1889 when became the Ancient Order of Foresters of America. It then changed its name to Foresters of America in 1895. This is shown by the seamless transition from Court Concordia No. 8393 to Court Concordia No. 119 on the same day as Court Sacramento No. 6742 became Court Sacramento No. 12 in the minute books. According to Stacy C. Hollander (2016) in her exhibition label for an Foresters of America ceremonial axe, the stories surrounding the Robin Hood legend and the biblical Garden of Eden influenced the rituals, regalia and props of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and thus that of the Foresters of America. The terminology used come from the British medieval forest courts: court instead of lodge, for example, and officers called Chief Ranger (President) or Woodward. Today, the Foresters and Foresters Financial are trademarks and trade names of the Independent Order of Foresters. Foresters Financial is an international financial services provider for life insurance, savings, retirement, and other financial products. These companies operate in the US, Canada and the UK.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection is comprised primarily of meeting minutes and financial records of Foresters of America Court Concordia No. 119 and Court Sacramento No. 12 from 1884-1960. Membership materials include medical information. Among the artifacts is a tasseled velvet Court Concordia collar/shawl (undated), ribbons and medallions, and a container with different colored stones. Also included are some poster-sized certificates and a Foresters card with odes and the words to songs dating to circa 1906. Three group photographs can be found under Administrative records—membership—photographs, box 12. The collection has been organized into three series, Administrative records, Artifacts and Financial records Series 1 Administrative records is composed primarily of large minute books in large books and ledgers. Court Concordia minutes are mostly in German although membership information is in both English and German. Court Sacramento materials are entirely in English. One box of documents (Box 11) contains correspondence, newsletters, event flyers and recruitment information and other ephemera mostly dating from the 1938 to 1949, although the range is 1894-1959. Membership information is contained in ledgers. Also included are applications for membership along with medical forms; three group photographs; certificates; and three records of proceedings of annual sessions of the Grand Court of California dating from 1949-1959. Series 2 Artifacts. Apart from the velvet collar/shawl and a wooden box with different colored stones, this series is comprised of a variety of committee ribbons, pins and medallions. Series 3 Financial Records. These records span the period 1894-1960 and included ledgers, cash books, reports, stock ledgers and certificates, as well as cancelled checks.

Arrangement

Series 1: Administrative records Subseries 1.1 Meeting minutes Subseries 1.2 Correspondence and other related Subseries 1.3 Membership Subseries 1.4 Certificates Subseries 1.5 Medical Subseries 1.6 Photographs Subseries 1.7 Proceedings Subseries 1.8 Reports Series 2: Artifacts Series 3: Financial records Subseries 3.1: Financial records Subseries 3.2: Reports

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Ancient Order of Foresters

Independent Order of Foresters

Foresters of America

Foresters of America. Court Concordia No. 119 (Sacramento, Calif.)

Foresters of America. Court Sacramento No. 12 (Sacramento, Calif.)

Fraternal organizations

Benevolent societies

Friendly societies

Mutual aid societies

Stacy C. Hollander, "Foresters of America Axe," exhibition label for Mystery and Benevolence: Masonic and Odd Fellows Folk Art from the Kendra and Allan Daniel Collection. Stacy C. Hollander, curator. New York: America Folk Art Museum, 2016.

Series 1: Administrative records**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Administrative records are composed primarily of large minute books in large books and ledgers. Court Concordia minutes are mostly in German although membership information is in both English and German. Court Sacramento materials are entirely in English. One box of documents (Box 11) contains correspondence, newsletters, event flyers and recruitment information and other ephemera mostly dating from the 1938 to 1949, although the range is 1894-1959. Membership information is contained in ledgers. Also included are applications for membership along with medical forms; three group photographs; certificates; and three records of proceedings of annual sessions of the Grand Court of California dating from 1949-1959.

Subseries 1.1: Meeting minutes

Box 11 Folder 4	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 01/11/1898-05/19/1903
Box 11 Folder 3	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 01/03/1893-01/04/1898
Box 1 Folder 1	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/23/1942- 04/10/1959
Box 1 Folder 2	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 6861 04/05/1888-12/27/1892
Box 4 Folder 4	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 04/20/1884-10/15/1897
Box 4 Folder 5	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 05/26/1903-12/08/1908
Box 14 Folder	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 05/27/1910-06/23/1916
Box 1 Folder 3	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 06/15/1923-02/28/1930
Box 2 Folder 2	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 06/22/1900-10/28/1904
Box 4 Folder 3	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 06/30/1916-11/07/1919
Box 6 Folder 1	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 6861 07/14/1882-12/11/1884
Box 7 Folder 1	Foresters of America minute book #12, Court Sacramento No. 12 07/25/1916- 08/06/1918
Box 8 Folder 1	Foresters of America minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 08/03/1926-08/05/1930
Box 8 Folder 2	Foresters of America minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 08/19/1930-10/02/1934
Box 7 Folder 2	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 08/20/1918-07/19/1922
Box 8 Folder 3	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 10/16/1934-11/15/1938
Box 4 Folder 1	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 10/22/1897-06/15/1900
Box 5 Folder 5	Board of directors minutes 10/28/1889-12/12/1898
Box 3 Folder 1	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 11/04/1904-05/20/1910
Box 2 Folder 1	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 11/14/1919-06/08/1923
Box 2 Folder 6	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 12/15/1908-07/18/1916
Box 2 Folder 1	Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 6861 12/18/1884-03/27/1888
Box 1 Folder 2	Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 3/14/1930 - 01/09/1942
Box 7 Folder 3	Foresters of America minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 8/01/1922-07/20/1926

Subseries 1.2: Correspondence and other related

Box 11 Folder 7	Papers found in Minutes Record Book 12/01/1924; 03/09/1928;12/15/1928
Box 11 Folder 13	Papers, Court Sacramento No. 12 1940
Box 11 Folder 15	Papers, Court Sacramento No. 12 1941
Box 11 Folder 33	Correspondence and checks, Court Concordia No. 119 1949
Box 11 Folder 11	Papers, Court Sacramento No. 12 1938-1939
Box 11 Folder 12	Papers, Court Sacramento No. 12 1939-1942
Box 11 Folder 14	Papers, Court Sacramento No. 12 1940-1942
Box 11 Folder 4	Forester's of America card with opening ode, others circa 1906
Box 11 Folder 8	Notes found inside Minutes Book 10/16/1934

Series 1: Administrative records

Subseries 1.2: Correspondence and other related

Box 11 Folder 6 **Annotated amendments to Court by-laws and resolutions 12/16/1919**
Box 11 Folder 9 **Constitution, Court Concordia No. 119 1906, 1913**

Subseries 1.3: Membership

Box 2 Folder 3 **Membership ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/01/1900-12/07/1906**
Box 3 Folder 3 **Membership ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/01/1906-01/13/1911**
Box 15 Folder **Membership ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/01/1911-01/01/1959**
Box 10 Folder 12 **Foresters of America Visitor's register: Record of visitors to Concordia No. 119**
 04/02/[1915]-05/04/1916
Box 11 Folder 3 **Application register A. O. F of A., Court Concordia No. 119 04/14/1894-01/20/1911**
Box 9 Folder 3 **Membership ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 04/20/1894-09/24/1941**
Box 9 Folder 2 **Membership Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 04/20/1894-12/01/1899**
Box 5 Folder 6 **Officer's roll book, Court Concordia No. 119 06/30/1894-01/1910**
Box 10 Folder 11 **Record of beneficiary, Court Sacramento No. 12 07/20/1926-06/01/1937**
Box 6 Folder 3 **Protocol Buch des Club Concordia (German) 11/11/1898-12/28/1935**
Box 10 Folder 1 **Order of Foresters initiation book, Court Sacramento No. 12 11/23/1897-?**
Box 5 Folder 1 **Order of Foresters membership roster, Court Capitol of California No.6742**
 1881-1929

Subseries 1.4 Certificates

Box 12 Folder 2 **Certificates -Ancient Oder of Foresters of America Dispensation, Court Concordia**
 No. 8393 04/20/1894
Box 12 Folder 3 **Certificates - Deputy Grand Chief Ranger's Commission 1915, 1931, 1932, 1940**
Box 12 Folder 5 **Membership certificates (3), Court Concordia No. 119 undated**

Subseries 1.5 Medical

Box 11 Folder 1 **Medical Examination forms, Court Concordia No. 119 10/30/1913-12/26/1913**
Box 11 Folder 2 **Medical Examination forms, Court Concordia No. 119 undated**

Subseries 1.6 Photographs

Box 12 Folder 1 **Photograph " Orden der herman Sohne" circa 1954**
Box 12 Folder 4 **Photographs- Drill Team of Court Schiller No. 120 F. of A., Court Schiller No. 120**
 undated

Subseries 1.7 Proceedings

Box 11 Folder 35 **Proceedings of the 70th annual session of the Grand Court of California, Santa**
 Rosa, California 05/21/1959-05/23/1959
Box 11 Folder 34 **Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Sessions of the Grand Court of California,**
 Sacramento, California 05/15/1952-05/17/1952
Box 11 Folder 32 **Proceedings of the 60th Annual Sessions of the Grand Court of California,**
 Marysville, California 05/19/1949-05/21/1949

Subseries 1.8 Reports

Box 10 Folder 4 **Foresters of America investigating committee reports, Court Concordia No. 119**
 (German) 03/12/1915-03/26/1915

Series 2: Artifacts

Series Scope and Content Summary

Apart from the velvet collar/shawl and a wooden box with different colored stones, this series is comprised of a variety of committee ribbons, pins and medallions

Box 16 Folder 1	Committee ribbons, Court Concordia No. 119 undated
Box 16 Folder 2	Stag head medallions undated
Box 16 Folder 3	Official members regalia badges undated
Box 16 Folder 4	Foresters of America badges with motto undated
Box 16 Folder 5	Assorted medallions, Court Concordia No. 119 undated
Box 16 Folder 6	Velvet, tasseled "collar/shawl," Court Concordia No. 119 undated
Box 16 Folder 7	Container with drawer, Court Concordia No. 119 undated

Series 3: Financial records

Series Scope and Content Summary

These records span the period 1894-1960 and included ledgers, cash books, reports, stock ledgers and certificates, as well as cancelled checks.

Subseries 3.1 Financial records

Box 6 Folder 2	Order of Foresters ledger 01/01/1924-01/01/1939
Box 9 Folder 1	Cash book 01/03/1950-06/02/1959
Box 11 Folder 30	Financial-Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 02/10/1950-06/09/1950
Box 11 Folder 29	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 02/25/1949-06/24/1949
Box 11 Folder 20	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 02/26/1943-06/25/1943 ; 04/25/1947-05/23/1947
Box 11 Folder 21	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 03/24/1944-03/23/1945
Box 11 Folder 25	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 04/12/1946-06/28/1946
Box 11 Folder 27	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 06/13/1947-06/27/1947; 06/09/1950-09/08/1950
Box 11 Folder 22	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 06/22/1945-09/28/1945
Box 11 Folder 19	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 09/25/1942-12/11/1942
Box 11 Folder 26	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 09/27/1946-12/27/1946
Box 11 Folder 28	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 10/10/1947-12/26/1947
Box 11 Folder 10	Sacramento-San Joaquin Bank cancelled checks 10/12/1928-12/28/1928
Box 11 Folder 23	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 10/12/1945-12/14/1945
Box 11 Folder 20	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 12/11/1942-03/26/1943
Box 11 Folder 24	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 12/14/1945-03/22/1946
Box 11 Folder 19	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 01/14/1944-03/24/1944
Box 11 Folder 18	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 06/12/1942-09/25/1942
Box 11 Folder 17	Bank of America cancelled checks, Court Concordia No. 119 12/26/1941-03/27/1942
Box 11 Folder 16	Documents found in Stock certificates #2010-2259: Buffalo Brewing Co. 08/26/1940-05/11/1945
Box 11 Folder 31	Documents found inside Cash Book 01/03/1950-06/02/1959 05/22/1953; 02/01/1955; 05/24/1955; 06/24/1958

Subseries 3.2 Financial reports

Box 13 Folder	Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1948-12/31/1949
Box 13 Folder 2	Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1950-12/31/1953
Box 13 Folder 3	Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1954-12/31/1955
Box 13 Folder 4	Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1956-12/31/1957
Box 13 Folder 5	Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Sacramento No. 12 01/1958-12/31/1959
Box 11 Folder 5	Reports and receipts 12/13/1913;09/22/1929;12/27/1933; 08/1934
Box 6 Folder 4	Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 001/06/1899-01/12/1917
Box 10 Folder 5	Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/01/1910-01/01/1929
Box 10 Folder 13	Auditor's reports, Court Concordia No. 119 01/01/1941-03/31/1950
Box 4 Folder 2	Financial Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/03/1902-09/25/1908
Box 10 Folder 16	Report of the financial secretary, Court Concordia No. 119 03/31/1931-12/31/1954
Box 5 Folder 3	Order of Foresters stock ledger 04/01/1897-01/13/1937
Box 10 Folder 2	Stock book : Ancient Order of Foresters 04/01/1897-10/07/[19]38
Box 5 Folder 2	Order of Foresters stock journal 04/01/1897-10/07/1939
Box 10 Folder 3	Cash book 04/01/1959-07/1960
Box 10 Folder 14	Treasurer's cash, Court Concordia No. 119 04/20/[1894]-01/01/1910
Box 10 Folder 7	Financial Secretary's Reports A. O. F. of A., Court Concordia No. 8393/No. 119 06/04/1894-06/03/1908
Box 10 Folder 15	Treasurer's reports, Court Concordia No. 119 06/30/1894-03/31/1918
Box 10 Folder 6	Auditor's reports, Court Concordia No. 8393/ No. 119 07/08/1884-03/31/1919
Box 10 Folder 9	Stock certificates #2010-2259: Buffalo Brewing Co. 08/02/1940-08/31/1945
Box 5 Folder 4	Order of Foresters financial secy's reports 09/30/1884-12/31/1919
Box 10 Folder 8	Disbursements, Court Concordia No. 119 09/30/1908-06/30/1919
Box 3 Folder 2	Financial Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 10/02/1908-12/26/1913
Box 11 Folder 36	Bank of America check register, Court Concordia No. 119 1958-1959
Box 10 Folder 17	Foresters of America report of trustees circa 1915
Box 10 Folder 10	Foresters of America sick and mortuary benefits undated
