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

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Collection number: MS00016

Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, CA

Processed by:
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Date Completed:
07/08/2019
Encoded by:
Sean Heyliger
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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
Language(s): Languages represented in the collection: EnglishGerman

Access
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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 Woodwards. 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

Series 1: Administrative records

Subseries 1.1: Meeting minutes

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 14 Folder  Order of Foresters minute book, Court Sacramento No. 12 05/26/1903-12/08/1908
Box 1 Folder 3  Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 05/27/1910-06/23/1916
Box 2 Folder 2  Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 06/15/1923-02/28/1930
Box 4 Folder 3  Minutes record book, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 06/22/1900-10/28/1904
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
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) 01/01/1900-07/07/1906
- 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) 04/20/1894-01/1959
- 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 07/20/1926-01/1937
- Box 6 Folder 3: Protocol Buch des Club Concordia (German) 11/11/1898-12/24/1935
- 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 Order 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; 06/09/1950-08/1950 |
| 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**
Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1948-12/31/1949

Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1950-12/31/1953

Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1954-12/31/1955

Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Concordia No. 119 01/1956-12/31/1957

Monthly and quarterly reports to the Grand Court of California, Foresters of America, Court Sacramento No. 12 01/1958-12/31/1959

Reports and receipts 12/13/1913; 09/22/1929; 12/27/1933; 08/1934

Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 001/06/1899-01/12/1917

Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/01/1910-01/01/1929

Auditor's reports, Court Concordia No. 119 01/01/1941-03/31/1950

Financial Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 01/03/1902-09/25/1908

Report of the financial secretary, Court Concordia No. 119 03/31/1931-12/31/1954

Order of Foresters stock ledger 04/01/1897-01/13/1937

Stock book : Ancient Order of Foresters 04/01/1897-10/07/[19]38

Order of Foresters stock journal 04/01/1897-10/07/1939

Cash book 04/01/1959-07/1960

Treasurer's cash, Court Concordia No. 119 04/20/[1894]-01/01/1910

Financial Secretary's Reports A. O. F. of A., Court Concordia No. 8393/No. 119 06/04/1894-06/03/1908

Treasurer's reports, Court Concordia No. 119 06/30/1894-03/31/1918

Auditor's reports, Court Concordia No. 8393/ No. 119 07/08/1884-03/31/1919

Stock certificates #2010-2259: Buffalo Brewing Co. 08/02/1940-08/31/1945

Order of Foresters financial secy's reports 09/30/1884-12/31/1919

Disbursements, Court Concordia No. 119 09/30/1908-06/30/1919

Financial Ledger, Court Concordia No. 119 (German) 10/02/1908-12/26/1913

Bank of America check register, Court Concordia No. 119 1958-1959

Foresters of America report of trustees circa 1915

Foresters of America sick and mortuary benefits undated