
Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Phoenix Lodge No. 239 (Galt, Calif.) records

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Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Phoenix Lodge No. 239 (Galt, Calif.) records

Collection number: MS0020

Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, CA

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Phoenix Lodge No. 239 (Galt, Calif.) records

Dates: 1875-1938

Collection number: MS0020

Creator: Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Phoenix Lodge No. 239

Creator: Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Rebekah Lodge No. 136

Collection Size: 3 linear feet(3 boxes)

Repository: Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: This is a collection from the Galt Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) formerly located at 204 Fourth Street in Galt, California. It is divided into six series: Correspondence, Financial, Rebekah Lodge, Administrative, Ephemera, and Bound Volumes. Contained within these series are letters pertaining to lodge activity, membership, benefits, as well as financial information, meeting minutes, and annual convention documents. The collection consists of loose papers and bound volumes, the dates of which range from 1875-1938 with the bulk being from the 1930s. A significant portion of the collection is letters from other lodges to the Galt Lodge and correspondence regarding membership and relief benefits.

Physical location: 30K1

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research use.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Phoenix Lodge No. 239 (Galt, Calif.) records, MS0020, Center for Sacramento History.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Bob McCabe to the Center for Sacramento History in 2000 (Accession #2000-108).

Processing Information

Collection processed by Steven J. Melvin, 2006. Finding aid prepared by Steven J. Melvin, 2006. Sean Heyliger updated the finding aid according to DACS and changed the name of the collection from Galt I.O.O.F. Collection to Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Phoenix Lodge No. 239 (Galt, Calif.) records in June 2019.

Biography / Administrative History

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) is a benevolent and social society with initiatory rites and ceremonies, gradation or degrees in membership, and mystic signs of recognition and communication. Its chief purpose is the welfare of its members, providing them with aid in times of need such as illness, unemployment, or injury and providing relief to the families and widows, of deceased members.

The I.O.O.F. has its origins in the English Order of Odd Fellows that began in the mid-1870s. By the early nineteenth century, charter lodges of the English Order existed in the United States. These North American lodges separated from the parent organization in 1834 and became the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Originally an exclusively male organization, the I.O.O.F. eventually created an auxiliary lodge for women known as the Rebekahs.

Odd Fellowship spread across the United States in succeeding years. In 1849, the first lodge in California, California Lodge Number One, was established in San Francisco. The Grand Lodge of California, was formally established on May 17, 1853 and had jurisdiction over lodges in the Oregon and Washington Territory, along with those in British Columbia. Gradually, I.O.O.F. lodges existed in almost every city and town in the state. The Galt I.O.O.F., known as Phoenix Lodge Number 239, was formed in 1875. Members met at the Odd Fellows Hall at Fourth and B streets. Among the activities of the Phoenix Lodge were providing aid to members in need and maintaining a cemetery. The Galt I.O.O.F. also had a Rebekah Lodge.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Phoenix Lodge No. 239 (Galt, Calif.) records consists of one cubic foot of documents and bound volumes ranging in time from 1875 to 1938, with the bulk of the material from the 1930s. It is arranged into six series: Correspondence, Financial, Rebekah Lodge, Administrative, Ephemera, and Bound Volumes. The items are arranged chronologically within each subseries. The first series, Correspondence, is divided into six subseries: Official, Personal, Sick Letters, Benefits, Membership, and Official Notices. The Official subseries largely contains letters to the Galt Lodge from other I.O.O.F. lodges and, to a lesser extent, letters from other organizations and businesses. The Personal subseries consists of letters from individuals to the Galt Lodge. Many of these letters are from people thanking the lodge for providing financial support during times of need. Sick Letters is a subseries with correspondence from individuals testifying to a member's health. Benefits has correspondence which document the aid paid to needy members. There is a clear relationship between the Sick Letters and Benefits subseries and in some cases categorization was difficult. Many of the documents contained information suitable to both subseries, therefore, placement of a few documents difficult. Anyone interested in this topic should examine both subseries. Membership contains documents relating to payment of dues and Official Notices are largely correspondences sent out by the Grand Lodge to all California Lodges.

The second series, Financial records, is arranged in two subseries: Receipts and Statements. The first contains receipts for expenses of the Galt I.O.O.F. consisting largely of commercial receipts and receipts to individuals for goods or services. The latter subseries has financial statements of the lodge. The Rebekah Lodge series has no subseries and contains a variety of documents relating this female auxiliary organization consisting mainly of letters from the Rebekah Lodge to the Galt I.O.O.F. Lodge. Administrative has subseries Lodge Minutes and Employment Committee Report. Ephemera has two folders: General and Jesus Fans. The former is an assortment of documents such as event tickets, envelopes, and Christmas cards. The latter has two wood and cardboard hand-held fans imprinted with an illustration of Jesus.

The final series is Bound Volumes, which contains the subseries Lodge Minute Books, Stub Books, Annual National Convention Proceedings, Annual State Convention Proceedings, Constitution, Grand Master's Visitation Proceedings, Membership Register, Ledger Book, Receipt Book, Annual Report of the Odd Fellows Home, and Stylograph Book. Perhaps the most interesting of these volumes is the Lodge Minute Book covering 1875-1882. This contains the proclamation establishing the Galt I.O.O.F. in 1875 by the Grand Master. It also has the names of the original members and membership during the early years of the lodge. The Lodge Minute Book subseries also has minutes from meetings containing valuable information about the issues concerning the lodge and lodge proceedings. The titles of the other subseries in this series accurately describe their contents.

Arrangement

Series 1. Correspondence Series 2. Financial records Series 3. Rebekah Lodge Series 4. Administrative records Series 5. Ephemera Series 6. Bound Volumes

Indexing Terms

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

Galt (Calif.)--History

Fraternal organizations--California--History

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Series 1. Correspondence**Physical Description:** 42 folders**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Correspondence, is divided into six subseries: Official letters, Personal letters, Sick Letters, Benefits, Membership, and Official Notices. The Official subseries largely contains letters to the Galt Lodge from other I.O.O.F. lodges and, to a lesser extent, letters from other organizations and businesses. The Personal subseries consists of letters from individuals to the Galt Lodge. Many of these letters are from people thanking the lodge for providing financial support during times of need. Sick Letters is a subseries with correspondence from individuals testifying to a member's health. Benefits has correspondence which document the aid paid to needy members.

Arrangement

Arranged into six subseries: Official letters, Personal letters, Sick letters, Benefits, Membership, and Official Notices

Subseries 1.1 Official letters

Box 1:01	Official letters undated
Box 1:02	Official letters 1898-1899
Box 1:03	Official letters 1912-1917
Box 1:04	Official letters 1924
Box 1:05	Official letters 1925
Box 1:06	Official letters 1926
Box 1:07	Official letters 1927
Box 1:08	Official letters 1928
Box 1:09	Official letters 1929
Box 1:10	Official letters 1930-1931
Box 1:11	Official letters 1932
Box 1:12	Official letters 1933
Box 1:13	Official letters 1934
Box 1:14	Official letters 1935-1937
Box 1:15	Official letters 1938

Subseries 1.2 Personal letters

Box 1:16	Personal letters undated
Box 1:17	Personal letters 1899
Box 1:18	Personal letters 1912-1917
Box 1:19	Personal letters 1925-1928
Box 1:20	Personal letters 1931-1933

Subseries 1.3 Sick letters

Box 1:21	Sick letters undated
Box 1:22	Sick letters 1898-1899
Box 1:23	Sick letters 1912-1917
Box 1:24	Sick letters 1924-1928
Box 1:25	Sick letters 1931-1938

Subseries 1.4 Benefits

Box 1:26	Benefits 1899
Box 1:27	Benefits 1912-1917
Box 1:28	Benefits 1924-1928

Box 1:29	Benefits 1931-1932
Box 1:30	Benefits 1933-1938

Subseries 1.5 Membership

Box 1:31	Membership undated
Box 1:32	Membership 1875, 1898-1899
Box 1:33	Membership 1903
Box 1:34	Membership 1912-1917
Box 1:35	Membership 1924-1929
Box 1:36	Membership 1930-1933
Box 1:37	Membership 1934-1938

Subseries 1.6 Official notices

Box 1:38	Official notices undated
Box 1:39	Official notices 1898-1899
Box 1:40	Official notices 1913-1917
Box 1:41	Official notices 1924-1929
Box 1:42	Official notices 1931-1938

Series 2. Financial records

Physical Description: 11 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Financial records are arranged in two subseries: Receipts and Statements. The first contains receipts for expenses of the Galt I.O.O.F. consisting largely of commercial receipts and receipts to individuals for goods or services. The latter subseries has financial statements of the lodge.

Subseries 2.1 Receipts

Box 1:43	Receipts undated
Box 1:44	Receipts 1898-1899
Box 1:45	Receipts 1900-1910
Box 1:46	Receipts 1912-1917
Box 1:47	Receipts 1924-1928
Box 1:48	Receipts 1931-1933
Box 1:49	Receipts 1934-1938

Subseries 2.2 Statements

Box 1:50	Statements undated
Box 1:51	Statements 1888-1889
Box 1:52	Statements 1917-1925
Box 1:53	Statements 1930-1938

Series 3. Rebekah Lodge 1899-1938

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

The Rebekah Lodge series contains a variety of documents relating this female auxiliary organization consisting mainly of letters from the Rebekah Lodge to the Galt I.O.O.F. Lodge.

Series 4. Administrative records

Physical Description: 2 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Administrative records has subseries Lodge Minutes and Employment Committee Report.

Box 1:55 **Subseries 4.1 Lodge minutes 1898, 1904, 1933**

Box 1:56 **Subseries 4.2 Employment Committee reports 1931-1933**

Series 5. Ephemera

Physical Description: 2 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Ephemera has two folders: General and Jesus Fans. The former is an assortment of documents such as event tickets, envelopes, and Christmas cards. The latter has two wood and cardboard hand-held fans imprinted with an illustration of Jesus.

Box 1:57 **Subseries 5.1 General undated**

Box 1:58 **Subseries 5.2 Jesus fans undated**

Series 6. Bound volumes

Physical Description: 38 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

The bound volumes series contains the subseries Lodge Minute Books, Stub Books, Annual National Convention Proceedings, Annual State Convention Proceedings, Constitution, Grand Master's Visitation Proceedings, Membership Register, Ledger Book, Receipt Book, Annual Report of the Odd Fellows Home, and Stylograph Book. Perhaps the most interesting of these volumes is the Lodge Minute Book covering 1875-1882. This contains the proclamation establishing the Galt I.O.O.F. in 1875 by the Grand Master. It also has the names of the original members and membership during the early years of the lodge. The Lodge Minute Book subseries also has minutes from meetings containing valuable information about the issues concerning the lodge and lodge proceedings. The titles of the other subseries in this series accurately describe their contents.

Subseries 6.1 Lodge minute books

Box 1:59 **Lodge minute books 1875-1882**
Box 1:60 **Lodge minute books 1895-1898**
Box 1:61 **Lodge minute books 1903-1905**

Subseries 6.2 Stub books

Box 1:62 **Stub books 1908-1912**
Box 1:63 **Stub books 1928-1930**
Box 1:64 **Stub books 1929-1934**

Subseries 6.3 Annual National Convention proceedings

Box 2:1 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1908**
Box 2:2 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1915**
Box 2:3 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1920**
Box 2:4 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1924**
Box 2:5 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1925**

Subseries 6.3 Annual National Convention proceedings

Box 2:6 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1926**
Box 2:7 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1928**
Box 2:8 **Annual National Convention proceedings 1929**

Subseries 6.4 Annual State Convention proceedings

Box 2:9 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1908**
Box 2:10 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1909**
Box 2:11 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1915**
Box 2:12 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1920**
Box 2:13 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1924**
Box 3:1 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1922**
Box 3:2 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1925**
Box 3:3 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1926**
Box 3:4 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1927**
Box 3:5 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1928**
Box 3:6 **Annual State Convention proceedings 1931**

Subseries 6.5 Constitutions

Box 3:7 **Constitution 1913**
Box 3:8 **Constitution 1920**
Box 3:9 **Constitution 1924**

Subseries 6.6 Grand Master's visitation proceedings

Box 3:10 **Grand Master's Visitation Districts 1917-1920**
Box 3:11 **Grand Master's Visitation Districts 1920-1923**
Box 3:12 **Grand Master's Visitation Districts 1921-1924**
Box 3:13 **Grand Master's Visitation Districts 1922-1926**

Subseries 6.7 Membership register

Box 3:14 **Membership register 1892-1897**
Box 3:15 **Membership register 1899-1905**

Box 3:16 **Subseries 6.8 Ledger book 1904-1915**

Box 3:17 **Subseries 6.9 Receipt book 1914-1919**

Box 3:18 **Subseries 6.10 Annual Report of the Odd Fellows Home 1921-1922**

Box 3:19 **Subseries 6.11 Stylograph Book undated**
