

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Accession 2009.012-IOF



Compiled by Wendy G. Robicheau

July 2009

Independent Order of Odd Fellows fonds. – [textual records, graphic images, objects]. – 1885-2000. – 1.25m of textual records. – 22 photographs : b&w, neg. – 11 objects

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1. Hiawatha Lodge No. 57 sous-fonds. – 1885-2000. – 1.07m of textual records. – 20 photographs : b&w. – 11 objects

Administrative History of Hiawatha Lodge No. 57

A history of the Lodge by Clayton R. Myra was included in a scrapbook (2009.012-IOF/88) compiled by Elizabeth Beker Toulson.

Hiawatha Lodge was instituted 81 years ago on the night of May 19th, 1891, its immediate parent being the Berwick Lodge.

The charter members were H.S. Dodge, Dr. A.J. Mackenna, B.G. Margeson, F.B. Newcombe, and John R. Joudrey, whose withdrawal cards from Berwick Lodge were granted by the Grant Master, J.P. Edwards.

Degrees were conferred on 9 candidates by Mystic Lodge of Halifax; the first N.G. being C.F. Rockwell who later became Grand Master.

The Rec. Secretary, E.B. Cogswell later was a prominent lawyer in the city of Edmonton, Alberta.

Oddfellowship originally became known in the Kentville area about the year 1875 when a charter was granted to what was known then as Evangeline Lodge, which was probably one of the 1st Lodges in the Annapolis Valley.

However, after a few years Evangeline became defunct and the only member on record is John Fuller who at one time was Gr. Rep. to Soc. Gr. Lodge.

Since that time Hiawatha has had experience very similar to other lodges, meeting with times of hardship, and time of success, but constantly growing in influence in the community and in numbers.

Hiawatha has over the years assisted in instituting other lodges, thus spreading the growth of Friendship, Love & Truth.

Four of our members have been honoured by the Gr. Lodge, in being elected to the highest office of Oddfellowship in the Maritime Provinces, namely:

Charles Rockwell – Gr. Master 1901-1902

W.W. Clarke – Gr. Master 1920-1921

E.H. Munroe – Gr. Master 1931-1932

W.C. Vincent – Gr. Master 1946-1947

Our membership is now approximately 190, many of whom are scattered throughout other parts of Canada. All are loyal to the principles of Oddfellowship, and in friendships they formed while members of Hiawatha.

In 1951 Hiawatha built and financed a camp and lodge at Lower Lake Sixty, approximately 50 miles from Kentville. In 1953 a boat and store house were added to that camp. These buildings were donated to and for the use of Boy Scout Association of Kings County.

In 1956 a Drill team representing Hiawatha consisting of 32 attended the 1st Annual Conclave of the N.E. Odd Fellows Association, held in Boston, Massachusetts. We still have fond memories of the huge banquet at the Boston Arena that Saturday night, when over 1800 Odd fellow and Rebekahs joined together for a delicious repast.

The following year a Drill team from both Hiawatha and St. Eulalie Lodges attended the 2nd Conclave at New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.

In 1947 a building was purchased on Aberdeen Street as a beginning to acquiring our own Hall. In 1958 a 2nd building was purchased in the West end of town. Both these properties were later sold and in 1966 we started to build our Lodge temple at 61 River Street.

Scope and Content of Hiawatha Lodge No. 57 sous-fonds

Sous-fonds consists of seven series:

- i) Minutes (1891-1973)
- ii) Membership (1887-1962)
- iii) Financial information (1885-1991)
- iv) Annual reports (1899-1956)
- v) Administrative files (1930-1937)
- vi) Activities and events (1910-1962)
- vii) Historical records (1941-2000)

Notes for Hiawatha Lodge No. 57 sous-fonds

Supplied title based on contents of sous-fonds

i) Minutes. – 1891-1973. – 20 folders of textual records

Series consists of minute books of the Lodge, including by-laws, rules of order, membership, and Treasurer's reports. Minutes are handwritten except when noted

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

Minutes since 1973 have been kept in the possession of the Lodge

2009.012-IOF/1 minutes (1891-1952) includes by-laws and rules of order, membership lists with addresses

2009.012-IOF/2 minutes (1893-1904)

2009.012-IOF/3 minutes (1908-1926) includes roll call and membership

2009.012-IOF/4 minutes (1907-1962) includes Treasurer's reports

2009.012-IOF/5 minutes (1910-1918) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/6 minutes (1921-1923) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/7 minutes (1927-1928) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/8 minutes (1930-1932)

2009.012-IOF/9 minutes (1932-1935) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/10 minutes (1935-1940)

2009.012-IOF/11 minutes (1940-1945) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/12 minutes (1945-1946) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/13 minutes (1946-1947 ; typewritten)

2009.012-IOF/14 minutes (1947-1950 ; typewritten)

2009.012-IOF/15 minutes (1958-1960)

2009.012-IOF/16 minutes (1960-1963) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/17 minutes (1963-1965) includes membership lists

2009.012-IOF/18 minutes (1965-1967) includes membership list for 1965

2009.012-IOF/19 minutes (1967-1970)

2009.012-IOF/20 minutes (1970-1973)

ii) Membership. – 1887-1962. – 7 folders of textual records

Series consists of membership files and books of the Lodge, including applications, reinstatements, transfer certificates, attendance, names, ages, occupations, and reports. Membership books are handwritten except when noted.

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

Membership files and reports were removed from binders

2009.012-IOF/21 applications and transfers (1948-1962)

2009.012-IOF/22 membership file no. 4 (1887-1948 ; divided into two folders) includes applications, reinstatements, transfer certificates; although the certificates have changed in this time frame, all include name, age, occupation, residence, and signature

2009.012-IOF/23 membership (1891-1922) includes names, ages, occupations, and residence of members; item labeled "Constitution and Black Book" although an actual constitution is not included

2009.012-IOF/24 membership book (1920-1940) being a "Question Book for Subordinate Lodgers", includes full name, address, occupation, age, and signature of members

2009.012-IOF/25 membership book (1941-1954) being a "Question Book for Subordinate Lodgers", includes full name, address, occupation, age, and signature of members

2009.012-IOF/26 membership (1930-1953) acts as an attendance book, giving names and meetings attended; some financial information is included in the back of the book

2009.012-IOF/27 reports of Visiting Committee (1930-1936 ; handwritten), being reports to the Lodge about the health of members who are ill

iii) Financial information. – 1885-1991. – 8 folders of textual records

Series consists of financial information of the Lodge, including account/cash books, member details, Treasurer's information, and correspondence. Also includes by-laws

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

Some items are oversized, as indicated by "o/s"

2009.012-IOF/28 account book (1885) includes names and a poem

2009.012-IOF/29 cash book (1912-1935) includes some names and signatures

2009.012-IOF/30 o/s cash book (1913-1925) includes names and dues; inserted inside the front page is a membership list booklet

2009.012-IOF/31 o/s ledger for the years 1904-1943 [19--?] includes full name, proposed member details, and dues information. Not arranged alphabetically or chronologically

2009.012-IOF/32 o/s ledger for the years 1916-1940 [19--?] includes full name, proposed member details, and dues information. Not arranged alphabetically or chronologically

2009.012-IOF/33 Treasurer's book (1931-1957) includes names and cash amounts for funds

2009.012-IOF/34 o/s ledger (1941-1968) includes names and cash amounts for dues and funds, correspondence (1964-1967), and "By-Laws of Hiawatha Lodge Building Club, Kentville, N.S." (1967)

2009.012-IOF/35 o/s ledger (1968-1991) includes names and cash amounts for dues and funds

iv) Annual reports. – 1899-1956. – 5 folders of textual records

Series consists of semi-annual reports of the Lodge.

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

All reports were removed from binders

2009.012-IOF/36 semi-annual reports (1899-1910)

2009.012-IOF/37 semi-annual reports (1927-1929)

2009.012-IOF/38 semi-annual reports (1930-1939)

2009.012-IOF/39 semi-annual reports (1940-1949)

2009.012-IOF/40 semi-annual reports (1950-1956)

v) Administrative files. – 1930-1937. – 4 folders of textual records

Series consists of correspondence and related files as well as an orientation kits for recruiting new members.

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files
File list included below
All records were removed from binders

2009.012-IOF/41 no.1 All records I.O.O.F. (1930-1931) includes correspondence and related; in two folders

2009.012-IOF/42 no.2 from 1931 June 30th records to Dec 31 1933 to 1936 (1931-1936) includes correspondence and related; in two folders

2009.012-IOF/43 no.7 part of June to Dec 31 1933 (1933-1937) includes correspondence and related

2009.012-IOF/44 orientation kit, [19--] includes "Presenting Odd Fellowship to Prospective Members", "Climb to greater heights with Odd Fellowship", blank membership forms, and blank certificate

vi) Activities and events. – 1910-1962. – 20 photographs : b&w.

Series consists of photographs, many undated, of Lodge activities and events through the early and mid-1900s

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files
File list included below
Some photographs are oversized, as indicated by "o/s"

2009.012-IOF/45 Dedication of cross walk sign to Town of Kentville. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 13cm x 18cm. – Six men standing by the cross walk sign post in front of the Eastern Canada Building on Webster Street in Kentville. The men are identified as (left to right): Cyril White, John Hill, Mayor Phinney, Roy Rottler, Harold Parsons, and Beverly Russell

2009.012-IOF/46 Wilbur Sherrard receiving plaque. – April 1963. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 13cm x 17cm. – Three men standing in this posed picture. Wilbur Sherrard is receiving a plaque from Clayton Myra. The men are identified as (left to right): Glen Russell (Noble Grand), Wilbur Sherrard, and P.G. Clayton Myra. – Identification note included with photograph. – The physical plaque was kept by the Lodge to give to the Sherrard family

2009.012-IOF/47 Initiatory Degree Team. - [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 26cm. – 24 men, sitting and standing, in this posed picture of the Team. The men are identified as (front row): Newton Carter, Lloyd Robinson, Charles Baker, Alfred Margeson, Albert Carter, Avery McDow, Ross Coburn and Percival Alders; (centre row): Barry Lloyd, Bill Lackley, George McQueen, Harry Landry, Hardy Elliott, Willard Beach, Bill Thompson, Walter Whalen, and Albert Lake; (back row): George Frampton, Barry Keddy, Curtis Winters, Bill Daley, Clayton Myra, Norman Regan, and Claude Landry. – Identification note included with photograph. – Second copy of lesser quality included

2009.012-IOF/48 Dinner event at Cornwallis Inn. - [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 25cm. – Photo shows members at a dinner event, held at the Cornwallis Inn, Kentville. – Inscribed in ink on front of image: “#1”

2009.012-IOF/49 Dinner event at Cornwallis Inn. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 25cm. – Photo shows members at a dinner event, held at the Cornwallis Inn, Kentville. – Inscribed in ink on front of image: “#3”

2009.012-IOF/50 Dinner event at Cornwallis Inn. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 25cm. – Photo shows members at a dinner event, held at the Cornwallis Inn, Kentville. – Inscribed in ink on front of image: “#4”

2009.012-IOF/51 Dinner event at Cornwallis Inn. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 25cm. – Six unidentified men posing for this picture with two men shaking hands

2009.012-IOF/52 Dinner event at the Cornwallis Inn. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 25cm. – Six unidentified posing for this picture with two men shaking hands. – Inscribed in ink on front of page: “#4”

2009.012-IOF/53 Noble Grand, Vice Grand, and another Fellow. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 13cm x 18cm. – Three unidentified men posing for this picture. The Noble Grand chair and the Honor Roll are in the background

2009.012-IOF/54 Lodge members. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 13cm x 19cm. – Nineteen unidentified men, sitting and standing in this posed picture. The Noble Grand chair, the Honor Roll, and the paintings are in the background

2009.012-IOF/55 Minstal show. – [19--]. – 2 photographs : b&w ; 21cm x 26. – Fifty-six unidentified men and women, sitting and standing in this posed picture on a stage

2009.012-IOF/56 o/s 109th session Sovereign Grand Lodge I.O.O.F.. – 1933. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 36cm x 57cm in frame. – A large group of unidentified men, sitting and standing in this posed picture. – Inscription reads: “109th Session Sovereign Grand Lodge I.O.O.F. / Sept. 18-25, 1933 / Springfield, Illinois”

2009.012-IOF/57 o/s 80th annual session / photo by Climo, Saint John N.B. – 1937. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 31cm x 118cm in frame. – A large number of unidentified men and women, sitting and standing in this posed picture outside of an unidentified building in Fredericton. – Inscription reads: “80th Annual Session of the Grand Lodge I.O.O.F. / and the 35th Annual Session of the Rebekah Assembly / Maritime Provinces of Canada / Newfoundland at Fredericton N.B. Aug 11th 1937”

2009.012-IOF/58 o/s 75th annual convention. – 1932. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 29cm x 115cm in frame. – A large number of unidentified men and three unidentified children, sitting and standing in this posed picture outside the front of the Cornwallis Inn, Kentville N.S., with inset picture of the Noble Grand. – Inscription reads: “75th Annual Convention, I.O.O.F. Kentville, N.S. Aug 9-12 ‘32”

2009.012-IOF/59 o/s 55th session Grand Lodge – by Dodge, Sydney, photographed for Sponagle Studio, Truro, N.S. – 1910. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 29cm x 130cm in frame. – A large number of unidentified men and women, sitting and standing in this posed picture, which was taken in Truro, N.S. – Inscription reads: “”55th Session” / Grand Lodge I.O.F. Maritime Provinces of Canada / Truro N.S. Aug 10 + 11th

1910". – Inscription on inset card: "Grand Lodge Session at Truro, N.S. / 1909 [scratched out] 10 / Picture & frame donated by Past / Grand, W.B. Sherrard, who can be / seen in the rear with derby in / hand"

2009.012-IOF/60 Members group. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 12cm x 21cm. – Thirty-one men, sitting and standing in this posed picture. All are wearing Nova Scotia tartan hats and ties. Four of the men are holding Haiwatha Lodge No. 57 signs. – Came in file marked "Convention pictures"

2009.012-IOF/61 Members group. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 11cm x 17cm. – Twenty-two women, sitting and standing in this posed picture. All are wearing Nova Scotia tartan hats, ties, and skirts. – Came in file marked "Convention pictures"

2009.012-IOF/62 Dinner at Convention. – [1956?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 21cm x 26cm. – Photo shows delegates from the Maritime Provinces, possibly at the Boston Arena. – Came in file marked "Convention pictures"

2009.012-IOF/63 Dinner at Convention. – [1956?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 21cm x 26cm. – Photo shows delegates, possibly at the Boston Arena. – Came in file marked "Convention pictures"

2009.012-IOF/64 o/s Northeast Odd Fellows Association. – 1956. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 26cm x 48cm. – Photo shows delegates at the Northeast Odd Fellows Association in Boston. – Inscription reads: "Northeast Odd Fellow Association / 1st Annual Conclave / Boston Arena / June 29th, 1956"

vii) Historical records. – 1941-2000. – 9 folders of textual records. – 11 objects

Series consists of minute books of the Lodge, including by-laws, rules of order, membership, and Treasurer's reports. Minutes are handwritten except when noted

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

2009.012-IOF/65 acknowledgement of contribution to Cancer Fund for Canada, [19--]

2009.012-IOF/66 honour roll, [1941?] listing names and dates of enlistment

2009.012-IOF/67 o/s in memoriam, [19--?] listing names of deceased Brothers of Hiawatha Lodge No. 57

2009.012-IOF/68 poem (1970) entitled "Progress and Accomplishments" written by Mabel Steele, includes newspaper clippings found in the frame behind the poem. Four clippings of the Grand Lodge Officers of the Jurisdiction of the Maritime Provinces, I.O.O.F. Lodge notes by George Hiltz, Oddfellows and Rebekahs attend hall's dedication, and dedication ceremonies in Kentville. All clippings have been photocopied

2009.012-IOF/69 clippings [19--] includes information about activities and events of the Lodge. Photocopied 2009

2009.012-IOF/70 clipping (1956) entitled "Lodge confers honor" to Frank H. VanBlarcom. Photocopied 2009

2009.012-IOF/71 clipping (1967) entitled "History of Odd Fellowship"

2009.012-IOF/72 newsletter (1973: April) called "The International Odd Fellow"

2009.012-IOF/73 newsletter (1979: April) called "The Maritime Odd Fellow"

2009.012-IOF/74 o/s wood carving (1960) of the provincial and federal coats of arms by A.P. Redden

2009.012-IOF/75 plaque (1974) presented to Hiawatha Lodge 57 on the occasion of the Northeast Conclave Quebec

2009.012-IOF/76 plaque (1975) for the N.E.O.F.A. Conclave

2009.012-IOF/77 plaque (1991) for the Conclave

2009.012-IOF/78 plaque (1999) presented to Kentville Lodge by Phillip Brown in appreciation for support of sporting endeavours

2009.012-IOF/79 plaque (1995) being an appreciation award presented to Hiawatha Lodge #57 for an outstanding donation to Atlantic Odd Fellow Rebekah Visual Research Program

2009.012-IOF/80 plaque (1996) being an appreciation award presented to Hiawatha Lodge #57 for an outstanding donation to Atlantic Odd Fellow Rebekah Visual Research Program

2009.012-IOF/81 plaque (1997) being an appreciation award presented to Hiawatha Lodge #57 for an outstanding donation to Atlantic Odd Fellow Rebekah Visual Research Program

2009.012-IOF/82 plaque (1998) being an appreciation award presented to Hiawatha Lodge #57 for an outstanding donation to Atlantic Odd Fellow Rebekah Visual Research Program

2009.012-IOF/83 plaque (2000) being an appreciation award presented to Hiawatha Lodge #57 for an outstanding donation to Atlantic Odd Fellow Rebekah Visual Research Program

2009.012-IOF/84 plate [19--?] of names for an unknown plaque

**2. St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge No. 27 sous-fonds. – 1904-1994. – 11cm of textual records.
– 1 photograph : b&w**

Administrative History of St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge No. 27

A history of the Lodge was published in 1944 and was included in a scrapbook (2009.012-IOF/88) compiled by Elizabeth Beker Toulson.

In the early part of Longfellow's beautiful poem "Evangeline", we read, -- "'Sunshine of Saint Eulalie' was she called ; for that was the sunshine which, as the farmers believed, would load their orchards with apples." So the name "St. Eulalie" chosen for the new Rebekah Lodge about to be established near the famed Evangeline Land, and in the district noted for its apples, has a double significance, and is more appropriate.

The Lodge was instituted on March 22nd, 1904, by Mrs. Minnie B. Robinson (President of the Rebekah Assembly at that time), at the request of Grand Master J.F. Whear, Charlottetown, P.E.I. There were six Charter members, and twenty-two Initiates were given the Rebekah Degree by the Staff of Diamond Rebekah Lodge, No. 15, of Truro, N.S., under direction of Degree Master Bro. Kent. Grand Master Bro. Whear was present at the evening session.

The first elective officers were as follows: -

- Noble Grand—Mrs. Gertrude Porter
- Vice Grand—Mrs. Emma Lockhart
- Rec. Secretary—Mrs. Amanda More
- Finance Secretary—Mrs. Hattie B. Harris
- Treasurer—Mrs. Araminta Killam

The membership gradually increased, and the Lodge proved active and successful for several years. Then about the year 1915, several enthusiastic and leading members having moved away, and a few having passed to the Great Beyond, the interest waned,-- the Lodge became inactive, and no regular meetings were held for three years; several members, however, continued to pay dues, and the treasurer kept the per capita tax paid, so that the Charter was not recalled.

In 1918, when Grand Lodge met in Kentville, St. Eulalie Lodge was re-organized, and ever since has continued to make steady growth and progress, lending its support to the various activities sponsored by our Order. The present membership is 172.

Scope and Content of St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge No. 27 sous-fonds

Sous-fonds consists of three series:

- i) Administrative records (1904)
- ii) Events [19--]
- iii) Scrapbooks (1946-1994)

Notes for St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge No. 27 sous-fonds

Supplied title based on contents of sous-fonds

i) Administrative records. – 1904. – 1 folder of textual records

Series consists of a certificate of approval for the Lodge

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

2009.012-IOF/85 certificate for Rebekah Lodge no, 27 (1904) when approval was given by the Grand Master, John F. Whear

ii) Events. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 26cm x 34cm

Series consists of a photograph of a float in a parade, likely during the Apple Blossom Festival

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

2009.012-IOF/86 I.O.O.F. parade float. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 26cm x 34cm. – Rebekah side of a parade float pulled by four horses. The float has four women and five men, all dressed in medieval costume. – A picture of the Hiawatha side of the float was kept by the Lodge

iii) Scrapbooks. – 1964-1994. – 9 folders of textual records

Series consists of scrapbooks collected and maintained by Elizabeth Beker Toulson of Wolfville

Note: Supplied title based on contents of files

File list included below

Not indexed

2009.012-IOF/87 scrapbook (1946-1971) includes clippings, photographs, pamphlets, and related for the activities of Lodges in Kentville and Wolfville

2009.012-IOF/88 scrapbook (1946-1980) includes clippings, photographs, pamphlets and related for Lodges in Windsor, Kentville, and Hantsport ; includes information and clippings with pictures of the Maritime Oddfellows Home in Pictou, a history of the St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge and of the Hiawatha Lodge, and a history of the Basil Encampment

2009.012-IOF/89 scrapbook (1948-1979) includes clippings, pictures, and related for the activities of Lodges in Hantsport, Wolfville, and Kentville

2009.012-IOF/90 scrapbook (1980-1981) includes clippings, photographs, and related for the activities and members of Lodges in Hantsport, Kentville, and Canning

2009.012-IOF/91 scrapbook (1982-1983) includes clippings, pictures, and related for the activities and members of Lodges in Kentville, Musquodoboit area, Windsor, Lunenburg, Wolfville, Walton, and Hantsport

2009.012-IOF/92 scrapbook (1982-1985) includes clippings, pictures, pamphlets, and related for the activities and members of Lodges in Wolfville, Kentville, Windsor, Musquodoboit area, and Truro

2009.012-IOF/93 scrapbook (1985-1988) includes clippings, pictures, and related for activities and members of Lodges in Kentville, Wolfville, Windsor, Canning, and Hantsport

2009.012-IOF/94 scrapbook (1989-1990) includes clippings, pictures, pamphlets, and related for activities and members of Lodges in Canning, Wolfville, Hantsport, Kentville, and Windsor

2009.012-IOF/95 scrapbook (1991-1994) includes clippings, pictures, and related for activities and members of Lodges in Kentville, Wolfville, and Canning. Item has water damage

3. Basil Encampment No. 25 sous-fonds. – 1926-1942. – 2 cm of textual records. – 1 photograph : b&w

Administrative History of Basil Encampment No. 25

A history of the Encampment by P.D. Saltzman and George Frampton was included in a scrapbook (2009.012-IOF/88) compiled by Elizabeth Beker Toulson.

Basil Encampment No. 25 was organized on May 14th, 1907. The following were members to whom charter was given: H.L. Hart, of Amity Encampment No. 3, being Grand Patriarch; Melville McKeen as Grand Scribe; Charles Rockwell, A.S. Killam, James F. Yould, George C. MacDougall, J.G. Calkin, W.E. Porter, A.M. Young, and Edward E. Wallace.

The Encampment was organized largely through the efforts of the above named charter members; the work being done by Belvedere Encampment of Windsor, and assisted by the Halifax Encampment. The place of meeting and organization was in what is now known as the Sealy Block. Unfortunately, there are no minutes on record of the first meetings, until Dec. 7th, 1907. A new Lodge Hall was built in 1967 at 61 River Street, Kentville, and Encampment Meetings are now held there.

Down through the years "Basil" has had its ups and downs, however things would always have a way of working themselves out. It is unfortunate that more members of the Subordinate Lodges do not avail themselves of this branch of our Order.

[sic] through the years 60 Chief Patriarchs have presided over its sessions, and the following four served as Grand Patriarchs: E.W. Williams, W.C. Vincent, A.W. Tudor and Clayton Myra.

Basil Encampment was named after Basil, the Acadian Blacksmith, and as he used to shape the iron into a useful instrument, each member has tried to shape our Lodge into one that will be useful to humanity.

Scope and Content of Basil Encampment No. 25 sous-fonds

Sous-fonds consists of two items:

2009.012-IOF/96 minute book (1926-1942) for the Basil Encampment no. 25, which met monthly; includes attendance-style membership lists

2009.012-IOF/97 Basil Encampment No. 25, I.O.O.F. – [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 22cm x 26cm. – Fifteen men, sitting and standing in this posed picture. The men are identified as (front row): Walter Corbett, Scott Coffill, Lloyd Robinson, Bill Tudor, Fredfearn, John Jodrey, and George Gates; (back row): Hardy Elliott, Winnifred McCaulay, Albert Carter, Ray Rice, Charlie Lockhart, Harris Best, Ross Crosby, and Alfred Margeson

Notes for Basil Encampment No. 25

Supplied title based on contents of sous-fonds

Administrative History of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows began in 18th Century England, it was deemed odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need without recognition and pursuing projects for the benefits of all mankind. (IOOF web site, www.ioof.org)

An unknown newspaper from September 1967 published an article entitled "History of Odd Fellowship" (a copy of which is included in the accession file). The article states that the American Odd Fellowship began in Baltimore on 26 April 1819 under Thomas Wildey, who had belonged to a Lodge in England. "Lodges were originally formed by working men for social purposes and for giving the brethren aid and to assist them in obtaining employment when out of work."

Also included in the 1967 article are the statements:

We, as Odd Fellows, are the only truly international fraternal organization in the world operating under a sovereign grand body or central governing body.

We are the first fraternal organization to establish a ladies auxiliary.

We are the only fraternal organization whose presiding officer attended the coronation of Her Majesty, Elizabeth II, by invitation.

We are the only fraternal organization that has been permitted to confer its highest decoration on the Unknown soldier.

We are the only organization permitted to conduct an official pilgrimage to the United Nations.

We are the only fraternal organization afforded the opportunity to maintain an official observer at all sessions of the United Nations.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (hereafter IOOF) has Lodges located in Kentville, Nova Scotia: Hiawatha Lodge No. 57, St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge No. 27, and Basil Encampment No. 25. These Lodges, and the Past Noble Grands Club, all used the same building for their meetings and activities – 61 River Street in Kentville.

Custodial History

All records received directly from the Hiawatha Lodge No. 57 during March 2009.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of three sous-fonds:

1. Hiawatha Lodge No. 57, which consists of seven series:
 - a. Minutes (1891-1973)
 - b. Membership (1887-1962)
 - c. Financial information (1885-1991)
 - d. Annual reports (1899-1956)
 - e. Administrative files (1930-1937)
 - f. Activities and events (1910-1962)
 - g. Historical records (1941-2000)
2. St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge No. 27, which consists of three series:
 - i) Administrative records (1904)
 - ii) Events [19--]
 - iii) Scrapbooks (1946-1994)
3. Basil Encampment No. 25, which consists of two items

Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds

Original order maintained by Archivist

Further accruals are not expected

Accompanying Records: 35 digital photographs were taken by the Archivist while collecting records on site in Kentville, March 2009. Inventory list of the images is included at the end of this Finding Aid. All images are maintained with the electronic original of this Finding Aid

Related items held by the Kings County Museum in Kentville

Records subject to the Copyright Act. Written permission from the Copyright holder is required in order to publish any of these records.

For reasons of historic authenticity, all file titles provided by the author and captions provided by the photographer are transcribed unedited. The spelling of both peoples' and places' names has changed with time, so inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the titles are unavoidable. Files and captions may also contain inaccuracies or terms that would now be considered offensive.

Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: Independent Order of Odd Fellows fonds
Date: 2009
Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

Access Points

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Hiawatha Lodge No. 57 (Kentville, Kings Co., NS)

Independent Order of Odd Fellows. St. Eulalie Rebekah Lodge No. 27 (Kentville, Kings Co., NS)

Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Basil Encampment No. 25 (Kentville, Kings Co., NS)
