

FORESTERS OF AMERICA
COURT OF CONCORD, No. 4
RECORDS, 1892-1932

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Foresters of America was a fraternal organization whose object was to "unite all white men, citizens of the United States, of good moral character and of sound bodily health, between the ages of sixteen and fifty years who believe in the existence of a Supreme Being." Its goals included giving "moral and material aid to its members and those dependent on them" and education of "its members socially, morally and intellectually; to provide relief and aid in sickness and distress; burial at death; to stimulate the spirit of patriotism; and inspire its members with the elevating influence of a proper recognition of the stern realities and responsibilities of life."

The Foresters were set up with a Supreme, Grand and Subordinate Courts. There was a national "court" and courts in the states. Court activities were carried out through rituals and ceremonies and used cards, certificates, passwords, and application procedures to insure the secrecy and limited membership of the "bretheren".

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The By-laws, constitution, ritual and initiation books are all printed material of the type and format found in all organizations. The roll books list names of officers and attendance at meetings. Minutes include standardized forms for the entry of information such as date of meeting, list of "brothers" "sick & distressed" by name and condition, reports of standing committees, new business etc. Names of brothers in need and amounts given out are well recorded. New business and further areas of the forms for details of activities often not filled out. Inventories list such objects as gavels, seals, battle axes, etc. Insurance covers this regalia and administrative items "contained in Grand Army Hall, situate in McShanes Blk. on the southerly side of Warren Street, Concord, NH. Applications include name, address, and occupation and a full list of applicants follows this inventory. Although there are various occupations such as machinists and shoe makers, many list quarry or stone cutting occupations. For the main part the correspondence is from doctors documenting medical reasons for inability to work.

NOTE: transferred to the museum, two banners 8" x 10" and one medal

Box 1, env 1 By-laws, 1898
 env 2-5 Constitution and by-laws, 1903, 1911, 1917, and 1927
 vol. 6-7 Ritual books, 1916, 1928
 env 8 Officer's roll book, 1905-1927
 vol 9 Officer's roll book, 1913-1922
 env 10 Initiation manual, 1903
 vol 11-12 Minutes, 1920-1925 and 1925-1932
 oversize volumes in box #3
 fld 13 Inventories and insurance , 1897-1899 (5 items)
 fld 14 Applications to join, in order by name, see list following
 fld 15 Correspondence, 1897 to 1925 (30 items)

Box 2, vol 1 Finance book, 1907-1924
 oversize volume in box #4
 env 2 Bank book, 1914-1916
 env 3-8 Check stubs, 1892-1896, 1915-1918
 vol 9 Check stubs, 1922-1923 in oversize Box # 4
 fld 10 Auditor's reports, 1898 to 1902
 fld 11 Bank statements, 1922-1924
 fld 12 Treasurer's reports, 1920-1925
 fld 13 Dues, 1898

CARDS MADE FOR CATALOG:

Insurance
 Fraternal organizations
 Occupations - stone cutting

NAMES OF APPLICANTS TO FORESTERS OF AMERICA

Ahern, John P.
 Ahern, Patrick
 Anderson, Andrew
 Beaudet, Albert
 Bishop, John
 Bluto, John
 Carlson, Alex Richard
 Conrich, James
 Cote, Wilfrid
 Couper, Robert
 Cromwell, Albert
 Davis, Albert
 Descoteau, Phillip
 Dessaint, F.
 Donovan, Michael

Douglas, Alfred
Engstrom, Emil
Gallagher, bernard
Hallaran, Edward
Hood, Allen (Lapse)
Hood, Allen
Holland, Timothy
Ingalls, Edwin
Ingalls, Hibbard
Jacobs, Richard
Jeskel, Peter
Kellehen, Thos.
AcAudley, Michael
McDonald, Alexander
Moore, goerge
Moore, James
Mullins, Charles
Munsey, Jos. B.
Nordstrom, Frank
Olson, Olaf
Ordway, Chas.
Oulette, William
Persons, henry L.
Peterson, Frank
Petrals, Mike
Plankey, Frank
Randolph, John
Spain, Joseph
Strandquist, Magnus
Tittlemore, Harry V.
Tonella, Juian
Turcott, Joseph
Welch, Edward
Welch, James
Welch, William
Winter, W.C.