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 "brethren".

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 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.
Donnovan, 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
Petrulis, Mike
Plankey, Frank
Randolph, John
Spain, Joseph
Strandquist, Magnus
Tittemore, Hanry V.
Tonella, Juian
Turcott, Joseph
Welch, Edward
Welch, James
Welch, William
Winter, W.C.