

McLean County Museum of History

Odd Fellows (IOOF) Cornerstones (1886 &1900)

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1884-1934
PROVENANCE:	Gifted in 1938 following the razing of the 1900 temple.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	None

Historical Sketch

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a fraternal, service-based organization that had its beginning in Baltimore, Maryland in the early part of the 19th century. The members of the group became known as “Odd Fellows” because their stated aim to selflessly provide aid for those in need was apparently viewed as odd by some outside the organization.

In the summer of 1886, the IOOF of Bloomington moved into a new building designed by architect George H. Miller. To honor the occasion, the city organizations of IOOF gathered together for a procession and the ceremonial placing of the corner stone by Grand Officers. In June 1900, the Temple of Remembrance Lodge No. 77 in Bloomington was one of the buildings destroyed in the fire that tore through much of the city’s downtown.

By December of 1900, the lodge had sold the old site of their temple, acquired new property and laid the cornerstone to a new neo-classic temple designed by Arthur L. Pillsbury. State Farm acquired the building in 1937, and the local lodge engaged architect Edgar Lundeen to design a third temple at 303 E. Monroe. It was dedicated in 1938 and sold to the Seventh-Day Adventists in 1987. The collection's cornerstone materials were donated after the 1900 temple was razed in August 1938.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains materials from the times that the IOOF corner stones were laid, including newspapers, bank statements of condition, and roll calls listing members and officers from various lodges. The loose items include a book of IOOF Grand Lodge of Illinois Reports from the year 1900 and a journal of the proceedings of the Bloomington, IL city council from 1886.

In addition, the collection includes a few items which may have not been inside the cornerstones.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General

- 1.1.1 List of contents of corner stone box, 1900.
- 1.1.2 *Pantagraph* coverage of corner stone box contents, July 15, 1886, p3. (Added 2015.)
- 1.1.3 *Pantagraph* coverage of corner stone box contents, Dec 5, 1900, p7. (see also *Daily Bulletin* article below. Added 2015.)

Folder 2: Newspapers

- 1.2.1 *Bloomington Daily Bulletin*, July 13, 1886
- 1.2.2 *The Daily Bulletin*, December 3, 1900
- 1.2.3 *The Daily Bulletin*, December 4, 1900

Folder 3: Memorials

- 1.3.1 Memorial for Fred S. Brown, died October 11, 1934

Folder 4: By-laws

- 1.4.1 Constitution, By-laws, and Rules of Order of Remembrance Lodge No. 77, 1884
- 1.4.2 By-laws and Rules of Order of Post No. 146, GAR, 1885

Folder 5: Bethlehem Rebekah Lodge I

- 1.5.1 List of officers and members, Bethlehem Rebekah Degree Lodge No 32. IOOF, July 14, 1886

Folder 6: Bethlehem Rebekah Lodge II

- 1.6.1 List of officers and members, Bethlehem Rebekah Degree Lodge No. 32 IOOF, December 3, 1900

Folder 7: Remembrance Lodge I

- 1.7.1 List of officers and members, Remembrance Lodge No. 77 IOOF, July 14, 1886

Folder 8: Remembrance Lodge II

- 1.8.1 List of officers and members, Remembrance Lodge No. 77 IOOF, November 24, 1900

Folder 9: Uhland Lodge

- 1.9.1 List of officers and members, Uhland Lodge No. 305 IOOF, November 29, 1900

Folder 10: McLean Encampment

- 1.10.1 List of officers and members, McLean Encampment No. 29 IOOF, November 27, 1900

Folder 11: Evergreen City Lodge

- 1.11.1 List of officers and members, Evergreen City Lodge No. 265 IOOF, December 4, 1900

Folder 12: Bloomington Lodge

- 1.12.1 List of officers and members, Bloomington Lodge No. 400 IOOF, November 23, 1900, includes request for list from Remembrance Lodge No. 77

Folder 13: William T. Sherman Post

- 1.13.1 Roster of William T. Sherman Post No. 146
1.13.2 Sheet of William T. Sherman Post stationary

Folder 14: First Methodist Episcopal Church

- 1.14.1 Directory of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, June 1, 1898

- 1.14.2 Old Time Memories, 56th Anniversary of the organization of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, May 27-29, 1881

Folder 15: Envelopes

- 1.15.1 Evergreen City Lodge No. 263
- 1.15.2 Remembrance Lodge No. 77 (3)
- 1.15.3 J. C. Smith, R. W. Grand Scribe No. 4
- 1.15.4 Bloomington Lodge No. 400
- 1.15.5 Canton Ridgely No. 9

Folder 16: Bank Statements of Condition

- 1.16.1 Report of condition of the First National Bank of Bloomington, IL at the close of business, June 3, 1886
- 1.16.2 Statement from the National State Bank at the close of business, June 3, 1886
- 1.16.3 Statement from The Third National Bank of Bloomington, IL at the close of business, May 4, 1886
- 1.16.4 Handwritten statement from the People's Bank of Bloomington, IL at the close of business, July 1, 1886
- 1.16.5 Report of the condition of the People's Bank of Bloomington, IL at the opening of business October 1, 1900
- 1.16.6 Statement of condition of The State National Bank at the close of business September 5, 1900
- 1.16.7 Statement of condition of the Third National Bank of Bloomington at the close of business September 5, 1900

Folder 17: Miscellaneous

- 1.17.1 Card noting that the box was made by and presented to the lodge by Arthur B. Dimmett, July 14, 1886
- 1.17.2 Seal of Evergreen City Lodge No. 265
- 1.17.3 Dance card from a Grand IOOF Ball at Turner Hall, July 14, 1886
- 1.17.4 Program from the 17th annual commencement of Bloomington High School, June 10, 1886
- 1.17.5 Page from *The Eye* with an illustration of IOOF building, July 14, 1886
- 1.17.6 List of Supervisors of McLean County for 1900 and 1901, Rules of Order, and Standing Committees
- 1.17.7 Handwritten note that the box is made by Michael Hilt and his son, December 5, 1900
- 1.17.8 Materials from A. B. Dimmett, dealer in Hardware and tinware, Bloomington, IL
- 1.17.9 Miscellaneous business cards, includes The Rodgers Shoe Co. (2), B. F. Hoopes & Son, and The New York Store Lambert & Murphy (2)

Loose Items

IOOF Grand Lodge of Illinois Reports

Reports of the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Representatives, Orphans' Home Board, and Old Folks' Home Board dated November 20-22, 1900. 202 pages.

Journal

Journal of proceedings of the city council of the city of Bloomington, IL for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1886.