DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of a series of ledgers, pamphlets, official documents, correspondence, by-laws, articles of incorporation, and financial receipts & check stubs detailing the activities of the Knights of Pythias from 1881-1988. The volumes contain meeting minutes, officer listings, financial ledger books, and membership rosters. These volumes illustrate the day-to-day activities of the order, provide documentation of membership, and show the kinds of charitable works the order was involved in. Also included is a bible and a book entitled “Pythian History,” which provides a background on the founding of the Knights of Pythias and information on the founding of the Tucson Lodge as well as other chapters in the order. The pamphlets contain by-laws, brief histories of the order, and journals of proceedings. Included are the title and deed, insurance, and mortgage information for Castle Hall the meeting location of the order. Also included are a series of membership cards from the early part of the century. The correspondence details communications between members and also between the recipients of the order’s charity activities. Additional documentation on financial expenditures is provided by correspondence and a series of financial receipts, payment reminder notes, and check stubs. Early members include John Spring, John Hardy, Theo Welisch, Charles Shibell, Pierce Ford, Charles Drake, and George Roskruge.

31 Boxes, 28 linear ft.

ORGANIZATIONAL NOTE

The Order of the Knights of Pythias was formed in Washington, D.C. in 1864. The founder, Justis H. Rathborne, felt that there was too much animosity between the North and the South after the Civil War and wanted to create an influence to create brotherhood outside of politics. The brotherhood was founded on the principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence among its members, regardless of background, and emphasized cooperation, goodwill, and service to the community.

The Tucson Lodge (#9 in Arizona) was founded in 1888. Tucson had originally been Lodge #3, founded in 1881, but gave up its charter in 1885 due to depletion of the treasury. The charitable activities of this lodge are mostly centered around medicine, with donations being given to the Cystic Fibrosis Youth Camp, the University of Arizona Microbiology Department and Cancer Hospital, the Arthritic Self Help Program, the Lupus Foundation, and contributions to other hospitals.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Shelden Tuckman in 1989.
**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

**PROCESSING**

The collection was processed by Allison Tinkler in November 2007.

**BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

**Box 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 1:</th>
<th>Bylaws, Songbook, Brief History of the Order</th>
<th>1897-1988</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f. 2</td>
<td>Journal of Proceedings and Newspaper Clippings</td>
<td>1959-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 3</td>
<td>Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation</td>
<td>1920-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 4</td>
<td>Lease Information</td>
<td>1922-1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 5</td>
<td>Title and Deed</td>
<td>1941-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 6</td>
<td>Mortgage</td>
<td>1921-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 7</td>
<td>Insurance and Surety</td>
<td>1920-1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 8</td>
<td>Financial Correspondence and Stubs</td>
<td>1898-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 9</td>
<td>Membership Cards</td>
<td>1888-1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 10</td>
<td>Receipts, Correspondence, Thank You Notes</td>
<td>1935-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 11</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1907-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 12</td>
<td>Checks and Payment Reminder Notes</td>
<td>1890, 1896, 1898, 1952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Box 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ledger #1:</th>
<th>Meeting Minutes</th>
<th>1881-1885</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f. 13</td>
<td>Contains Loose items from Ledger #1</td>
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**Box 3**

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<tr>
<th>Ledger #2:</th>
<th>Meeting Minutes</th>
<th>1885-1887</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f. 14</td>
<td>Contains Loose Items from Ledger #2</td>
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**Box 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ledger #3:</th>
<th>Meeting Minutes</th>
<th>1888-1893</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Box 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ledger #4:</th>
<th>Meeting Minutes</th>
<th>1893-1902</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f. 15</td>
<td>Contains Loose Items from Ledger #4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 6
Ledger #5  Meeting Minutes  1902-1905
f. 16     Contains Loose Items from Ledger #5

Box 7
Ledger #6  List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1905-1908
f. 17     Contains Loose Items from Ledger #6

Box 8
Ledger #7  List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1908-1911
Ledger #8  List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1911-1915

Box 9
Ledger #9  List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1915-1918
Ledger #10 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1919-1923

Box 10
Ledger #11 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1923-1928
Ledger #12 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1929-1932
f. 18     Contains Loose Items from Ledger #11

Box 11
Ledger #13 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1932-1937
Ledger #14 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1944-1947

Box 12
Ledger #15 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1947-1950
Ledger #16 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1950-1952

Box 13
Ledger #17 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1952-1957
Ledger #18 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1957-1963

Box 14
Ledger #19 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1963-1968
Ledger #20 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1968-1972
f. 19     Contains Loose Items from Ledger #19

Box 15
Ledger #21 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1973-1977
Ledger #22 List of Officers and Meeting Minutes  1978-1983
f. 20 Contains Loose Items from Ledger #22

Box 16

Ledger #23 Ledger 1892-1898
f. 21 Contains Loose Items from Ledger #23

Box 17

Ledger #24 Ledger: Cash Expenditures 1925-1948
f. 22 Contains Loose Items from Ledger #24

Box 18

Ledger #25 Ledger: Cash Receipts 1939-1949
f. 23 Contains Loose Items from Ledger #25

Box 19

Ledger #26 Ledger: Cash Expenditures 1949-1959
f. 24 Contains Loose Items from Ledger #26

Box 20

Ledger #27 Ledger: Cash Receipts 1950-1960

Box 21

Ledger #28 Ledger: Cash Expenditures 1960-1970
f. 25 Contains Loose Items from Ledger #28

Box 22

Ledger #29 Ledger: Cash Receipts 1960-1971

Box 23

Ledger #30 Ledger: Cash Expenditures 1971-1981

Box 24

Ledger #31 Ledger: Cash Receipts 1972-1982
f. 26 Contains Loose Items from Ledger #31

Box 25

Ledger #32 Sign In Sheet 1954-1966
f. 27 Loose Items from Ledger #32
Box 26
Ledger #33   Sign In Sheet   1967-1973

Box 27
Ledger #34   Membership Roster   1903-1958

Box 28
Ledger #35   Member Listing and Funds to Members   1895-1898
f. 28       Loose Items from Ledger #35

Box 29
Bible

Box 30
“Pythian History” by Wm. D. Kennedy   1904

Box 31
Check Stubs   1897, 1946-1958