

A Guide to the Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. and A.M. Collection, 1847-1905 SC 0177

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1847-1905



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0177

Unit Date

1847-1905

Language

English .

Abstract

The Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. and A.M. Collection, 1847-1905, is comprised of photocopies and digital images of pamphlets, newspapers, coins, broadsides and other records of the Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, removed from the cornerstone of Rockingham Union Lodge No.27 located at 114 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, on November 28th 2006.

Creator

Freemasons. Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M. (Harrisonburg, Va.)

source

Freemasons. Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M. (Harrisonburg, Va.)

Extent

0.59 cubic feet 1 box

Extent

0.27 Gigabytes 23 digital files

Extent

1 flat box [17" x 10.5" x 1.75"]13 folders

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk. (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Items were made available for digitization and photocopying by the Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 A.F. & A.M., December 2006, and then returned to donor.

Processing Information

Newspapers and the Broadside were scanned on an Epson Expression 10000XL as tiff files (7003x4916 pixels) in May 2007 by Julia Merkel. Additionally, photographs of items within the collection, and the copper box were made by SC staff and are included in the digital files.

The cornerstone also contained seven publications that were retained by Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 and not photocopied or scanned. They include The Daily Scripture Expositor (New York: American Tract Society, 1840); The Holy Bible (New York: American Bible Society, 1858); Proceedings of the 127th Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia (Richmond: Wm. Ellis Jones, 1905); Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Virginia. (Petersburg: Frank A. Owen, 1904); Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia (Petersburg: Frank A. Owen, 1904); Proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia (Richmond: James E. Goode, 1859); Proceedings of an Occasional Grand Lodge of Va (Richmond: Chas. H. Wynne, 1859).

In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in the spring of 2017. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 4052.** In 2019 the collection was minimally reprocessed; scanned documents were converted to jpeg and pdf files for access copies.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Rockingham Union Lodge No.27 A.F. and A.M. Collection, 1847-1905, SC 0177, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Bio/Historical Note

The Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 was chartered on October 29, 1789. Many original lodge members had Masonic roots in England, Ireland, and Scotland prior to the establishment of a Grand Lodge in the New World. In 1777, delegates from several lodges in Virginia met to discuss establishing a Grand Lodge in the

United States. As a result, the Grand Lodge of Virginia thus became the first Grand Lodge of Masonry in North America.

The first meeting place was reputedly at the residence of William Cravens, although there is some question as to whether Cravens ever actually owned a home in Harrisonburg. Some time after Cravens' death in 1793, there was talk of constructing a Masonic Temple. In 1795 a building committee was appointed to take charge of this task. A lot was purchased at the corner of Federal Alley and East Market Street and constructed soon thereafter. The first meeting at the new Masonic Temple, also known as Mason's Hall, was held on July 14, 1796.

By 1860, membership had grown enough to warrant a new temple. In February of that year, an agreement was made to exchange lots with D.H. Gambill, who owned property across East Market Street known as the "Old Stone Church," with the stipulation that the Lodge would occupy the upper floors of their original building for twelve months. However, the Lodge had the opportunity to purchase a lot from Thomas Yancey a few days later at the corner of South Main and Water Street for \$600. The "Old Stone Church" property was advertised for sale, and sold in 1865 to J.R. Jones for \$800. On July 4, 1860, a ceremony documenting the laying of the new cornerstone was held, and several items were sealed within it. On April 6, 1861, the new building was dedicated and available for use.

On December 5, 1892, with expansion in mind, the Lodge purchased the lot across the street, occupied by the Revere Hotel. Membership continued to grow, so by 1903 plans were made to demolish the hotel and construct a new temple on the hotel site, the cost of which was \$18,000. The cornerstone from the old temple was opened and the contents removed. On September 5, 1905, during a ceremony for the laying of the new cornerstone, more items were added to the original collection and sealed. On December 27, 1906, the new temple at 114 South Main Street was ready to occupy.

On October 28, 2006, the cornerstone of Rockingham Union Lodge #27 was opened during renovations of the century-old building. A public banquet was held on December 4, 2006, during which the cornerstone's contents were displayed. The Lodge gave permission to allow the contents to be photocopied and scanned for research use. As of December 2006, the Lodge had not yet determined whether the original contents will be returned to the cornerstone after renovations are complete.

Scope and Content

The Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 A.F. and A.M. Collection is comprised of photocopies and scans of items removed from an 8"x10"x6" copper plated box in the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple at 114 S. Main Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia on November 28, 2006. Documents include a 20"x37" broadside advertising the laying of the 1860 cornerstone, photocopies of handwritten or typed lists of items to have been included in the cornerstone in 1860 and 1905, as well as a program, speech, and lists of officers, Lodge members, and members of the Ladies Masonic Association.

The collection contains pamphlets and small publications, including photocopies of by-laws of Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 and the Royal Arch Chapter No. 6; addresses; and programs pertaining to the Lodge's centennial in 1889, the laying of the cornerstone of the Lodge in 1905, and for the cornerstone of the Rockingham County Court House in 1896.

The collection contains ephemera, such as photocopies of coins and currency, blank membership forms, a calendar, and other items of interests. The collection includes images of the following currencies: 1853 one dollar gold coin; 1857 silver half-dime; 1858 silver half-dollar; 1858 flying eagle one cent piece; 1858 silver three cent piece; 1859 silver quarter dollar; 1860 silver dime; 1861 gold-plated one cent piece; 1899 copper one cent piece; 1900 French copper 10 centime piece on fob of Thomas L. Williamson; 1902 five cent piece; and an undated three cent piece, and Confederate paper currency.

Newspapers primarily consists of photocopies and scans from 1860, 1905, and 1906, some of which are quite rare. The issues of the Virginia Citizen, Valley Democrat, Spirit of the Valley, and Harrisonburg Free Press may be the only extant issues for those dates. The September 6, 1905 editions of the Harrisonburg Daily News were found on top of the copper box in the cornerstone, as the box was sealed on September 5th.

Keywords

Facsimiles (reproductions)

Digital images

Pamphlets

coins (money)

broadside (notices)

Membership lists

Newspapers

Speeches (Documents)
Freemasons -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Freemasonry -- Virginia
Freemasonry -- Virginia -- Lodges -- Early works to 1800
Cornerstone laying -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- Sources
Harrisonburg Daily News (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Rockingham Register (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Rockingham Register and Advertiser (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Spirit of the Valley (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Valley Democrat (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Virginia Citizen (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Freemasons. Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M. (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Freemasons. Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M. (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- History
Freemasons. Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M. (Harrisonburg, Va.)

Other Formats Available

Newspaper clippings and the 1860 Broadside were scanned and are available as digital files.

Bibliography

Bulluck, Steven C. [Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order, 1730-1840](#). Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996 Building on a Rock: Masons Keep Temple, Tenents Firmly Grounded. Daily News Record Harrisonburg Daily News Record Rutyna, Richard and Peter Stewart. [The History of Freemasonry in Virginia](#). Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998. Wilton, J. [Historical Sketch of Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. and A.M., Harrisonburg, Virginia](#). October, 1889.

Location of Originals

The original materials are retained by the donor.

Arrangement

The collection is comprised of 13 folders, arranged in no particular order. Items are described at the item-level, and are further arranged alphabetically by document title.

Description of Subordinate Components

Documents

Unit Date 1860-1905, undated

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

List of Articles deposited in this Corner Stone of Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27

Unit Date 1860 July 4

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

List of Articles Deposited in the Corner Stone of Masonic Temple

Unit Date 1905 September 5

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

List of names of Ladies who composed the Ladies Masonic Association

Unit Date 1860 July 4

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

List of Officers and members of Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Masonic Oration, at the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Masonic Temple.

Unit Date 1860 July 4

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Officers and Members of Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27...

Unit Date 1905 September 5

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Programme for September 5, 1905 at laying of Corner Stone to Masonic Temple

Unit Date 1905 September 5

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Pamphlets and Small Publications

Unit Date 1847-1905

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Address of Judge John Paul, delivered at the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Rockingham County Court House

Unit Date 1896 October 15

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

By-Laws for the Government of the Rockingham Union Lodge, No. 27 (Harrisonburg: J.H. Wartmann & Bros.)

Unit Date 1847

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

By-Laws of Rockingham Union Lodge, No. 27 (Harrisonburg: Register Steam Job Print)

Unit Date 1889

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

By-Laws of Rockingham Royal Arch Chapter, No. 6.

Unit Date 1879

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

By-Laws of Rockingham Royal Arch Chapter, No. 6

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Ceremonies and Program for Laying the Corner Stone of Temple of Rockingham Union Lodge

Unit Date 1905 September 5

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Historical Sketch of Rockingham Union Lodge, No. 27

Unit Date 1889 October 29

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

The History and Principles of Free Masonry. An Address Delivered before Valley Royal Arch School

Unit Date 1905 July 9

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Prize List Rockingham Horse and Colt Show Association

Unit Date August 15-August 17, 1905

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Programme of the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Rockingham County Court House...by Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M.

Unit Date 1896 October 15

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Record of the Valley Royal Arch School of Instruction

Unit Date 1904 July 13

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Ephemera

Unit Date 1853-1905

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Calendar, "Harrisonburg 1905"

Unit Date 1905

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Coins and Currency

Unit Date 1853-1902

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

First National Bank of Harrisonburg Condensed Report to the Comptroller

Unit Date 1905 August 25

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Membership forms: Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. and A.M.

Unit Date circa 1905

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Membership forms: Rockingham Royal Arch Chapter, No. 6 R.A.M.

Unit Date circa 1890

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Newspaper clipping used to wrap coins

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Newspaper clipping re laying of cornerstone

Unit Date circa 1905

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Ticket to Ladies' Masonic Dinner Ticket

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Ticket to The Kavanaugh

Unit Date 1905 September 5

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Rockingham Royal Arch Chapter No. 6, Public Installation of Officers Elect

Unit Date 1904 July 25

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Broadside

Unit Date 1860 July 4

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Harrisonburg Daily News

Unit Date 1905 August 28

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Harrisonburg Daily News

Unit Date 1905 September 5

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Harrisonburg Daily News

Unit Date 1905 September 6

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Harrisonburg Free Press

Unit Date 1905 August 31

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Rockingham Register and Advertiser

Unit Date 1905 September 5

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Rockingham Register and Advertiser

Unit Date 1860 June 29

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Spirit of the Valley

Unit Date 1905 September 1

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Valley Democrat

Unit Date 1860 June 29

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Virginia Citizen

Unit Date 1860 June 29

Mixed Materials [1000898389] OV 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Mixed Materials SC0177-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)