

Finding Aid - Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No. 49 fonds ()

Generated by on June 06, 2026

Language of description: English

Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No. 49 fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	3
Notes	4
Access points	5
Physical condition	4

Summary information

Title: Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No. 49 fonds

Date: 1901-1910 (creation)

Physical description: 1 volume of textual material.

Dates of creation, revision and deletion: The fonds was processed in 2023 by Archives Technician Kelly Bucci.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

The Ancient Order United Workmen began in the United States in 1868 and was the first fraternal benefit society to offer financial insurance to its members. Providing insurance for workingmen during the 1860s was a novel idea, but the A.O.U.W believed that its fraternal structure and its low overhead costs made it more likely to succeed compared to commercial life insurance firms that often went bankrupt. Working class men had to apply for membership and if accepted, had to pay a \$1.00 initiation fee. When a member died, his dependents would receive a \$2,000 payout. After the death of a member, each remaining member in the association would be required to pay another \$1.00 to replenish the fund. The popularity of the association resulted in many branches being established throughout the United States and even in Canada. The Grand Lodge of Ontario A.O.U.W. chapter was established in 1880 and had 226 lodges in the province, including the Hamilton Lodge No.49, which was established that same year with 500 initial members. The Hamilton Lodge was similar to the parent association in that it was a fraternal benevolent organization providing social and financial support to its members and their dependents by visiting the sick, assisting the poor, and caring for the orphans and widows of deceased members. The association also promoted the establishment of libraries and reading rooms to further education and learning, as well as advocated for apprenticeship opportunities. The association was incorporated by the Ancient Order of Independent Foresters in 1926.

Custodial history

The Hamilton Public Library, Local History & Archives department has no record of how this material was acquired. The inside cover of the volume is date stamped July 5, 1971, so the department was in possession of the volume at that time, but it is unclear if this was the date of acquisition, and the donor is also unknown.

Scope and content

The material consists of a minute book recording the meetings of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No.49 of Hamilton, Ontario, dated December 1901 to June 1910. The minutes detail the administration of the Lodge through officer duties, applications for membership, beneficiary disbursements, donations to various charities and hospitals, and accounts of members visiting their sick and injured brothers.

Notes

Physical condition

The pages of the volume are in fair condition, but the outer cover is in poor condition with detaching spine. There is also some red rot residue.

Immediate source of acquisition

Unknown

Alternative form available

No

Restrictions on access

The material is open to researchers. There are no restrictions on access.

Conditions governing use

There are no restrictions on reproduction for research and private study. Preferred citation: Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No.49 fonds, 00066, Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton, Ontario.

Finding aids

File list is not applicable.

Related material

The following related material can be found in the Local History & Archives (LH&A) department at the Hamilton Public Library pertaining to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No.49 fonds:
“The Men of Gore: Brilliant Celebration of the Anniversary of Gore Lodge, A.O.U.W.” Times, September 23, 1884.

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Note [Sources]

“The Men of Gore: Brilliant Celebration of the Anniversary of Gore Lodge, A.O.U.W.” Times, September 23, 1884.

Wikipedia. "Ancient Order of United Workmen." Accessed January 17, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Order_of_United_Workmen.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Fraternal Organizations (subject)

Collection holdings
