Finding Aid prepared by Eric Spall, 2017

Provenance

Unknown

Scope and Content

This collection contains minute books, financial records, and membership rosters from the Lebanon Lodge No. 45 of the Knights of Pythias. The records cover the years 1901-1959.

Series

I. Minute Books
   A. Lebanon Lodge No. 45, 4 vols., 1943-1959
   B. Castle Hall Building Association, 1 vol., 1903-1935
   C. Pythian Corporation, 1 vol., 1937-1946

II. Cash Books
   A. Lebanon Lodge No. 45, 1 vol., 1933-1955
   B. Castle Hall Building Association, 2 vols., 1893-1936
   C. Castle Hall Building Association Checkbook, 1 vol., 1919-1924
   D. Pythian Corporation, 1 vol., 1939

III. Membership Books
   A. Lebanon Lodge No. 45, Roster of Membership, 1 vol.
   B. Lebanon Lodge No. 45, Roll of Officers, 1 vol., 1901-1939
   C. Castle Hall Building Association, Member's Register, 1 vol. 1893-

IV. Other Books
   A. Questions Book, 1 vol., 1928-1941
   B. Roster of Sojourning Members, 1 vol., 1917-1925
   C. Lebanon Lodge No. 45, Relief Committee Reports, 1 vol., 1936-1941

V. Semi-Annual Reports, Lebanon Lodge No. 45, 1943-1944

VI. Castle Hall Building Association (contains proofs of publications, correspondence, and tax returns (1932-1936))

VII. Pythian Corporation
   A. Miscellaneous (contains a tax assessment, one resolution, and one letter)
   B. Check Books, 1937-1951

VIII. Receipts, 1910s-1940s (includes many receipts/bills from local businesses)

IX. Miscellaneous (contains the by-laws of Lebanon Lodge No. 45 (1903), program for the 31st convention Supreme Lodge (1920), Pythian Triangle (Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1924), one letter (1932), and inventory of items in storage at Richmond, on Grand Lodge letterhead (1946)
The Knights of Pythias is a fraternal organization founded by Justus Rathbone in Washington, DC, in 1864. Lebanon Lodge No. 45 was instituted in April 1874. The lodge originally met in a room on the west side of the courthouse square in Lebanon, but moved several times in its early years. In 1893, the lodge organized the Castle Hall Building Association to raise funds for the construction of a building for the lodge. Castle Hall, designed by Indianapolis architect Louis H. Gibson, was erected on the north side of the courthouse square next to the jail and dedicated in October 1894. The building originally consisted of three stories, with the Lodge itself occupying the third floor, but, in 1944, the fire that destroyed the next-door Adler’s department store also destroyed Castle Hall’s third floor. The building continues to be used by businesses. The Lebanon Pythian Corporation was organized in January 1937.

Sources
“Castle Hall Dedication,” Lebanon Patriot, September 20, 1894.
“Order Knights of Pythias,” Lebanon Patriot, September 27, 1894.
www.pythias.org

Access Restrictions: None

Related Holdings: Photographs: Clubs/Organizations/Societies; Vertical Files: Fraternal Orders; Knights of Pythias; Public Buildings.

Preferred Citation: Knights of Pythias, Lebanon Lodge No. 45, Special Collections, Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center, Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN.