

Other#		Object name 2
Refer code	NjFIHi5380	Object name 3
Accession#	2012-217-001	
Received as	Donation	Accession date 07/28/2012
Source	Irwin Sheppard	
Creditline		
Home loc	Vault 1	

Identity Statement:

Title: Records of the Washington Camp No. 152, Patriotic Order of Sons of America

Extent of the unit of description: 5 boxes; 2.5 linear feet

Scope & Content / Abstract:

Abstract: This collection contains records of a fraternal organization of Ringoes, NJ in the early part of the nineteenth century, the Washington Camp No. 152 of the national organization of the Patriotic Order of Sons of America. The collection is comprised of the organization's minutes, roll books, administrative records, financial reports, and communications with its parent State Camp and national organization. This collection would be of interest to those researching fraternal organizations, Ringoes, NJ, the Patriotic Order Sons of America, or genealogy in the Ringoes area.

Scope and Content: This collection is composed of five boxes that detail records of the Washington Camp No. 152, Patriotic Order of Sons of America (Ringoes, NJ).

Box 1: Four minute books that document the camp from 1917 to 1934.

Box 2: Six minutes books that document the camp from 1910-1924.

Box 3: Two minute books from 1924 to 1940; Roll Books from 1913-1931, and other administrative records including reports, applications, by-laws, and correspondence.

Box 4: Financial records of the camp, including Treasurer's cash books from 1914-1937, and also assessments, bonds, insurance policies, bills, receipts, and bank statements. The box finished with the programs (Proceedings) of State Camps (Annual Meetings) from 1925-1935.

Box 5: Continues with State Camp Proceedings from 1942 and 1949, then contains records of the national organization, including general instructions, ceremonies and songs, communications, accessories, rules, mortuary fund policies and dues, and national camp proceedings.

Context:

Administrative / Biographical history: Washington Camp No. 152 of the Patriotic Order Sons of America was founded in Ringoes, NJ, in 1910. The Camp was part of a larger group known as the Patriotic Order Sons of America. This group began as a different fraternal organization, The Order of the Junior Sons of America, in 1847. This organization was founded in Philadelphia by Dr. Reynell Coates, who wanted a fraternity for American boys to serve as a "High School of American Patriotism." Dr. Coates designed the group to be run similarly to the Masons, except that the local units were called "Camps." By the time of the Civil War, the group had spread throughout 20 US States and territories. Each individual lodge is called "Washington Camp #___," which was a tradition started by Dr. Coates to honor the great "Father of Our Country," General George Washington.

The American Civil War (1861-1865) severely damaged the group, and almost caused it to go out of existence. The extremely high enlistment rate of its members, combined with the total loss of its southern "Camps", caused the order to all but disband. However, in 1864, the group reorganized and changed its name to the Patriotic Order Sons of America, and also changed the enlistment age to 21. In every state that still had an active group, a "state camp" was started, to aid in administration and to assist in recruitment. From 1880 to 1900 the P.O.S. of A. expanded quickly, expanding back into the eastern half of the country and into some western states as well. The records of the Washington Camp No. 152, of Ringoes, NJ, end at 1947, but it is not known whether the group ended there, or in 1976 when the materials were donated to the HCHS. The P.O. S.of A. is still active today, albeit with a greatly reduced number of camps.

Structure:

System of Arrangement: Subject

Disposition:**Disposition date:****Conditions of Access & Use:**

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Language of material: English

Finding Aids: In vertical file

Allied Materials:

Location of originals: Vault 1

Collection HCHS Manuscript Collection**Event****Medium****Catdate** 07/28/2012**Catby** DC**Display value****Status date** 02/25/2017**Status by** DC**Status** Processed**Condition****Condition by****Cond date****Cond notes****Appraisor****App notes****Acq value****Value date****Current value min****Current value max****Ins policy#****Ins company****Ins rep****Ins phone#****Ins premium****Ins value****Policy exp date****Temp loc****Date****Invn date****By/Until****Invn by****Subjects**

Fraternal organizations

Patriotic societies

Patriotism

Ceremonies

Songs & music

Financial statements

Classification**Search terms** Ringoes, NJ**People****Notes****Updated/by** 03/01/2017 06:57 PM Unknown**Dataset**