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King Hiram Lodge #53 Free and Accepted Masons Records
Collection Number: 1631 THL

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Initial processing undertaken in 1991. Last updated March 2, 2024.

EXTENT: 0.63 linear feet (plus objects)

CREATOR: King Hiram Lodge #53 Free and Accepted Masons; Apple Blossom Chapter #196, Order of the Eastern Star

DATE: 1886 - 1991

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The King Hiram Lodge #53 Free and Accepted Masons Records collection contains minutes, awards, certificates, articles, and ephemera pertaining to the King Hiram Lodge # 53 Free and Accepted Masons of Winchester, Virginia. The lodge was located at 418 N. Kent Street in 1976. The Lodge stopped meeting in 2004 and in 2014 the surviving members petitioned to dissolve the organization.

The collection also includes minutes, correspondence, and treasury reports for Apple Blossom Chapter #196 of the Order of the Eastern Star, Winchester, Virginia as well as objects belonging to the Chapter.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: In 1885 a group of Brethren petitioned the Grand Lodge to establish a Black Masonic Lodge in Winchester, Virginia. On May 17, 1886, a warrant was granted to George Stephenson, R. Page Hall, and Preston S. Smith along with 11 Master Masons to form the King Hiram Lodge # 53. In 1946, the group reorganized and recruited new members from surrounding counties were initiated and welcomed back returning members. They acquired a new headquarters in 1976. The lodge ceased having meetings in 2004, and officially closed in 2014. The last four members of the lodge donated \$53,000 to the Fremont Street Nursery in 2014. Apple Blossom Chapter #196 of the Eastern Star is a women's auxiliary of the King Hiram Lodge.

RELATED MATERIAL: Folder, King Hiram Lodge # 53, Box 2, Ellsworth Turner Collection, 204 THL

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Materials acquired as gifts of several donors.

ORGANIZATION:

BOX 1—King Hiram Lodge #53 Records

Awards and Certificates

- William G. Plummer Award for excellence in Masonic work presented to the King Hiram Lodge #53
- Building Fund Certificate presented to King Hiram Lodge #53

“The Bee Hive” (Winter, 1989) Vol. 32, No. 1

Catalog A—Ihling Bros. Everard Co. (1978)

Centennial Celebration, 1886-1986

Closing of Hiram Lodge #53, 2014

- Statement of surviving lodge members on closing of the lodge, August 2014
- Check to Fremont Street Nursery, August 2014 (photocopy)
- Photograph, surviving lodge member and director of Fremont Street Nursery, Sept. 9, 2014 (photocopy)

“History and Origin of the Organization of the Rite of Adoption among Negroes in the United States”

“History of King Hiram Lodge #53,” by F. Ellsworth Turner, 1972

List of Officers and Members, 1887

Physical Location: Oversize Box 2

Services/Programs

- Program for Recognition Service, Nov. 25, 1983
- Program for Lodge of Sorrow, Nov. 6, 1983 (photocopy)
- Testimonial Dinner in honor of Downing Ellsworth Banks, July 28, 1978
- Testimonial Dinner in honor of John Bruce Cook, June 1, 1979
- The Festival of St. John The Baptist, June 25, 1978

BOX 2—Apple Blossom Chapter #196, Order of the Eastern Star Records

Adoptive Rite Ritual: A Book of Instruction, c. 1868, reprinted 1980

Minutes, correspondence, and treasury reports for Apple Blossom Chapter #196 of the Eastern Star, Winchester, VA for the following years:

- 1971-1975

- 1976-1980
- 1981-1985
- 1986-1989

BOX 3 — Objects

Apple Blossom Chapter #196, Order of Eastern Star

- Crown and scepter
- Past Matron Award, 19.5cm silver plate awarded to Mary Cross on May 18, 1985
- Past Matron Badge – Order of Eastern Star of Virginia
- Plaque for extraordinary Christian witness (from St. Paul AME Church, 1991)

King Hiram Lodge #53 Free and Accepted Masons

- Gavel with wooden box, presented to King Hiram Lodge #53 by F. Ellsworth Turner, Sept 23, 1977
- Plaque, M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia F. and A.M., Inc. Presented to Robert L. Cross for a monetary contribution to the MWPHGL of Virginia Charity fund, plaque with a medallion and coin attached.
- Sign, King Hiram Lodge #53 Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masons, Winchester, Virginia. **Physical Location: Oversize, Framed**