

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
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Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 A.F. & A.M. Records
Collection Number: 1589 THL

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Materials in this collection may not be duplicated (photocopied, photographed, or digitally scanned) without written permission of the current Master or Secretary of the Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21, AM & FM. Requests to duplicate material in this collection should be addressed to Secretary, Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21, A.F. & F.M., P.O. BOX 1488, Winchester, Va. 22604-7988.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Processed by Archives Staff. Last updated by Nova Kulakowski, November 2025.

EXTENT: 6.42 linear feet

CREATOR: Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 A.F. & A.M.

DATE: 1768-2020

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection is comprised of the records of Winchester Lodge No. 12, A.Y.M. ("Antient York Masons") from 1768 to 1807 and Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 A.F. & A.M. of 1810 to 2020. These records contain charters, bylaws, account ledgers, reports, obituaries, and Masonic sponsored programs and events. Also included are ephemera and a historical sketch of the lodge.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Organized Freemasonry did not appear in Winchester until 1768 when a group of Masons residing in Frederick County applied to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. On October 1, 1768, a charter or "warrant," was issued to form Winchester Lodge No. 12, A.Y.M. ("Antient York Masons"). In December 1777 the Winchester Masons ceased meeting because of a lack of attendance but began to meet again in 1785. The Masons established a permanent meetinghouse in 1810. In 1807, Lodge No. 12 surrendered their charter to the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge and received a new charter from the Virginia Grand Lodge to become Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 A.F. & A.M. This enabled the Winchester Lodge to participate in activities with other Virginia lodges. The Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 is still active in the community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Brown, William Moseley. *Freemasonry in Winchester, Virginia, 1768-1948*. Staunton, VA: McClure Publishing, 1949.

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: On loan to Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1 Record Books

1768-August 5, 1802—Begins with a copy of the warrant granted by the grand lodge of Philadelphia to the “Town of Winchester in the County of Frederick and Colony of Virginia.” Dated October 1, 1760 and the Year of Masonry 5760. Also included in the 1768 records are the bylaws and a list of members. Included are records of minutes and accounts of other years.

June 24, 1799-March 4, 1822—Account book with one or more names per page. At the end of the ledger is a treasurer’s report signed by Peter Lauck

BOX 2 Record Books

1799-1826—Account book with one name per page. At the front of the ledger is an index of names.

Oct. 3, 1808-Oct. 6, 1828

BOX 3 Record Books

April 6, 1812-Aug. 1, 1814

Nov. 5, 1828-June 12, 1863

Nov. 9, 1836-March 1, 1853

BOX 4 Record Books

March 5, 1853-June 22, 1868

Dec. 12, 1864-June 24, 1865

July 6, 1868-June 1, 1874

BOX 5 Record Books

June 23, 1868-April 30, 1877

March 5, 1877-Dec. 13, 1887

BOX 6 Record Books

Jan. 10, 1888-May 15, 1900

Aug. 8, 1893-July 31, 1937

Feb. 1, 1895-July 25, 1904

BOX 7 Record Books

June 12, 1900-Dec. 14, 1909

BOX 8 Record Books

Jan. 11, 1910-Dec. 30, 1920—many posted inserts: some reports and many obituary letters.

1911-1924

BOX 9 Record Books

Jan. 11, 1921-Dec. 10, 1929—many posted inserts: reports, obituary, and program for corner stone of First Baptist Church P357

1925-1937

BOX 10 Record Books

Jan. 14, 1930-June 30, 1942—Loose items found inside book are filed in a separate folder.

1938-1952—Loose items found inside book are filed in a separate folder.

BOX 11 Record Books

July 13, 1942-March 9, 1954

Dec. 3, 1952-Nov. 26, 1954

BOX 12 Record Books

March 30, 1954-Nov. 13, 1962

Nov. 13, 1962-June 16, 1970

BOX 13 Record Books

June 30, 1970-Dec. 11, 1979

Jan. 8, 1980-Nov. 24, 1987

BOX 14 Record Books

Jan. 12, 1988-Dec. 20, 1994

Jan. 3, 1995-Dec. 19, 2000

BOX 15 Record Books

Jan. 9, 2001 – Jan. 5, 2006

Jan. 10, 2006 – Dec. 18, 2007

BOX 16 Record Books

Minutes, January 2004

BOX 17 Record Books

Jan. 8, 2008 – Nov. 24, 2009

May 1, 2009 – Dec. 10, 2011

BOX 18 Record Books

Jan. 10, 2012 – Nov. 12, 2013, Nov. 26, 2008

Dec. 10, 2013 – Dec. 12, 2015

BOX 19 Record Books

Jan. 12, 2016 - Dec. 12, 2017

BOX 20 Communication and Finance Reports, 2019 – 2020

BOX 21 Monthly Meetings, 2019 - 2020

BOX 22 Record Books

Roster-Winchester Hiram Lodge—blank book

Record of Memorials—blank book

BOX 23

Jackson Night—March 15, 1940; 1 item, 4 pages, printed

Masons—Founder's Day History; 12 cards, typescript

Knights Templar - correspondence and booklets, 1951-1958, typescript

Richmond Royal Arch Chapter (folder includes the following):

By-Laws for the Government of Richmond Royal Arch Chapter, No 111, 1860

Digest of Laws, Rules, Regulations, and Forms, 1946, 2 items printed

Masonic District No.14 - correspondence, manuscript (folder includes the following):

Appointment of Washington G. Singleton as District Deputy Grand Master, 1839, 1 page

Petition for Masonic candidate - I. M. Baker, c. 1840, 1 leaf

Petition for Masonic candidate - Moses Hockspringer c. 1840, 1 leaf

Petition to form a lodge in Berryville, 1840, 2 leaves

Letter pertaining to Berryville lodge, 1840, 2 leaves

Letter to W. G. Singleton from George Murphy, 1840, 2 leaves

Letter to W, G, Singleton from William Wigginton - final disposition of Grand Charity Fund, 1842, 2 leaves

Letter to W. G. Singleton from L. Heiskitt regarding expenses for delegate, 1842, 2 leaves

Invitation to public celebration, 1845, 2 leaves
Report of Royal Arch Chapter 12 to Grand Convocation, 1846, 2 leaves
Letter to W. G. Singleton, 1846, 2 leaves
Petition to revive Union Lodge No.66, 1847, 2 leaves
Letter to W. G. Singleton, 1848, 1 leaf
Letter regarding revival of Lodge No.66, 1848, 1 leaf
Circular - rejections, suspensions, expulsions of Masonic members, 1848, 2 leaves
Letter to W. G. Singleton from John Dove, 1848, 2 leaves
Letter to John Dove from W. G. Singleton, 1848, 2 leaves
Letter to John Dove from W. G. Singleton, 1848, 3 pages
Letter to W. Barton (?) from W. G. Singleton, 1848, 3 pages
Letter to John Dove from W. G. Singleton, 1848, 2 pages
Receipt for 3 yards of ribbon, 1848, 1 leaf
Letter regarding meetings, 1849, 2 pages
Letter of Masonic activities, 1849, 2 pages
Letter regarding un-Masonic activity, 1849, 2 pages
Letter regarding suspension of charter of Lodge No. 66, 1849, 2 pages

Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 (folder includes the following):

Correspondence - 1847-1849, manuscript
Booklets - 1820-1952, printed

Winchester Hiram Lodge No.21 (folder includes the following):

Extracts - minutes, 1756-1785, typescript
Bicentennial celebration, October 5, 1968, booklet, printed

Winchester Hiram Lodge 225th anniversary, October 4, 1993, printed booklet, news article

Grand Council correspondence, 1943-1951

Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association—Faith of Our Fathers, “Extension of Remarks of Hon. Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia in the Senate of the United States, Monday 28, 1952. This speech was presented by George E. Stringfellow before the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association, Richmond, Virginia Sept. 29, 1951. Pamphlet, 4 pages, printed

BOX 24

Anniversary of Winchester Hiram Lodge No.21, 1 item, printed

Christmas Cards—not delivered, 1950, 1952, 6 items, printed

Corner Stone Laying, (folders contain the following:)

Winchester Memorial Hospital, Nov. 1, 1901, 4 copies, printed
Rouss City Hall, May 15, 1900, 5 copies, printed

Listing of 1813 membership – uncovered in 1900 when Market House was torn down, 1 item, printed

Rouss City Hall—May 15, 1900, 5 items

Winchester Memorial Hospital—Nov. 1, 1901, 3 items

Historical Sketch, 1894, 1 item, printed

Masonic Home of Virginia—21st Annual Report, 1911, 1 item, printed

News Articles—unnumbered, printed (photocopy)

The Virginia Masonic Herald Official Grand Lodge, AF&AM of Virginia, March , 1937, 1 booklet, printed

An Update for Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21, A.F. & A.M. (1979-1992), Freemasonry in Winchester, Virginia, by William Mosely Brown, prepared by Jeffrey G. Burcham, 38 pages, typescript

An Update for John Dove Chapter No. 21, R.A.M. (1979-1992), Freemasonry in Winchester, Virginia, by William Moseley Brown, prepared by Jeffrey G. Burcham, 15 pages, typescript

An Update for Winchester Commandery No 12, K.T. (1979-1992), Freemasonry in Winchester, Virginia, by William Moseley Brown, prepared by Jeffrey G. Burcham, 11 pages, typescript