

E 78

**Rebekah Greenstone # 86 fonds**

Original, 210cm, 1884-2000

**Scope and content:**

The Rebekah Greenstone # 86 Fonds contain Minute books, attendance logs, membership information, financial records, constitutions and scrapbooks that document the history of the division of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Fort William. There are also several minute books from the Port Arthur lodge which appear to have been given to the Greenstone Lodge upon their closure.

**Series E 78/1/1-79:** Minute books, 190cm, 1884-2000, (original)

There are four sets of minute books: thirty-eight books correspond to the Greenstone lodge, thirty-seven books correspond to the Port Arthur lodge, two books with the # 25 lodge and two with the Past Noble Grands of the Greenstone lodge. Each minute book contains records of membership, activities, and finances for each of the relative divisions of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Many of the minute books contain correspondences, receipts and other documents within them. These books are arranged numerically by lodge number and chronologically within each group.

- 1) 1926-1969, Minute Book, One minute book from the #25 lodge, 2cm
- 2) 1963-1991, IBID
- 3) 1924-1930, Minute Book, One minute book from the Past Noble Grands of the Greenstone # 86 lodge, 2cm
- 4) 1930-1938, IBID
- 5) 1908-1915, Minute Book, One minute book from the Rebekah Greenstone # 86 division of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 2cm
- 6) 1915-1920, IBID
- 7) 1920-1923, IBID
- 8) 1923-1926, IBID
- 9) 1926-1927, IBID
- 10) 1927-1928, IBID
- 11) 1928-1930, IBID
- 12) 1930-1931, IBID
- 13) 1931-1933, IBID
- 14) 1933-1935, IBID
- 15) 1935-1938, IBID
- 16) 1938-1940, IBID
- 17) 1940-1942, IBID
- 18) 1942-1944, IBID
- 19) 1944-1946, IBID
- 20) 1946-1948, IBID
- 21) 1948-1950, IBID
- 22) 1950-1952, IBID

- 23) 1952-1954, IBID
- 24) 1954-1956, IBID
- 25) 1956-1958, IBID
- 26) 1958-1961, IBID
- 27) 1961-1963, IBID
- 28) 1963-1965, IBID
- 29) 1965-1968, IBID
- 30) 1968-1971, IBID
- 31) 1971-1976, IBID
- 32) 1976-1978, IBID
- 33) 1978-1981, IBID
- 34) 1981-1983, IBID
- 35) 1983-1985, IBID
- 36) 1985-1987, IBID
- 37) 1987-1989, IBID
- 38) 1989-1991, IBID
- 39) 1991-1993, IBID
- 40) 1993-1996, IBID
- 41) 1996-1999, IBID
- 42) 1999-2000, IBID
- 43) 1884-1886, Minute Book, One brown minute book from the Port Arthur Lodge # 244, 2cm
- 44) 1887-1890, IBID
- 45) 1890-1893, IBID
- 46) 1893-1898, IBID
- 47) 1898-1900, IBID
- 48) 1900-1904, IBID
- 49) 1904-1910, IBID
- 50) 1911-1913, IBID
- 51) 1914-1914, IBID
- 52) 1914-1916, IBID
- 53) 1916-1920, IBID
- 54) 1920-1922, IBID
- 55) 1922-1924, IBID
- 56) 1924-1927, IBID
- 57) 1927-1929, IBID
- 58) 1929-1931, IBID
- 60) 1934-1936, IBID
- 61) 1936-1939, IBID
- 62) 1939-1944, IBID
- 63) 1944-1948, IBID
- 64) 1948-1951, IBID
- 65) 1951-1953, IBID
- 66) 1953-1955, IBID
- 67) 1955-1957, IBID
- 68) 1957-1959, IBID

- 69) 1959-1962, IBID
- 70) 1962-1965, IBID
- 71) 1965-1968, IBID
- 72) 1968-1971, IBID
- 73) 1971-1975, IBID
- 74) 1975-1981, IBID
- 75) 1981-1985, IBID
- 76) 1989-1987, IBID
- 77) 1989-1990, IBID
- 78) 1990-1992, IBID
- 79) 1990-1994, IBID

**Series E 78/2/1-3:** Attendance logs, 3cm, 1908-1929 1973-1998, (original)

- 1) 1908-1929, "Officers Roll book", One black attendance log book which records the attendance of officers, committee members and visitors. Each name within the officers log indicates their rank and attendance practices. Also contained within this log book is a single correspondence from the assembly secretary Mrs. Pearce and is addressed to the Greenstone secretary Miss Jessie Armitage regarding the membership totals, 1cm
- 2) 1973-1998, "Officers Roll Call", Five burgundy books in which the attendance of officers and committee members is recorded. There are nine committees listed within the log, the committee of: finance, property, visiting, membership, district, social, covenant, benevolent and humanitarian. Each committee member and officer is ascribed a ranking which is recorded beside his name, 1cm
- 3) 1980-1990, "Rebekah Register", One burgundy book; IBID, 1cm

**Series E 78/3/1-4:** Membership Committee Records, 4cm, 1908-1980, (original)

- 1) Initiation contract book, 1908-1957, One brown book containing the names of newly admitted members to the Greenstone lodge. Each name is signed and dated by the new member, thereby agreeing to abide by the rules, values and by-laws of the Interdependent Order of Odd Fellows. Beside each name is a column used to record the status of the member, 2cm
- 2) Membership Register, 1959-1980, One brown book containing the names, addresses, date of admission and how they became members, 1cm
- 3) Report of the Committee of Character, 1937-1943, One brown book containing character assessments performed by the committee of character for use by the membership committee in determining whether to accept a prospective member or not, 1cm
- 4) Transfers, 1929-1932, Eight transfer slips that are used to record the transfer of members from one lodge to another. Each slip records the new destination for the member, the date of the transfer, the district and is signed by the secretary of the Greenstone lodge., 8pgs

**Series E 78/4/1:** Financial Records, 1cm, 1958-1964, (original)

- 1) "Financial Secretaries Cash Book", 1958-1964, One green ledger book containing financial records for the Greenstone # 86 lodge. Within the

book are records of membership dues, taxes paid by the lodge, expenditures and income, 1cm

- Series E 78/5/1-3:** Constitution and procedures, 2cm, 1930-1987, (original)
- 1) Amendments, 1930, Three pages of by-law amendments issued by the Noble Grand of the Greenstone lodge. The amendments deal with such things as: meeting dates, membership dues and by-law language. Also contained within these pages is an approval letter issued by the Committee of Laws for the I.O.O.F of Ontario, 3pgs
  - 2) Constitution, 1982, One small pocket sized red binder containing the official constitution of the Rebekah Lodges of Ontario, 2cm
  - 3) Manual, 1982, One yellow pocket sized manual containing the operating procedures for the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, 8pgs
- Series E 78/6/1:** Scrapbook, 1cm, 1937-1955, (original)
- 1) Scrapbook, 1937-1955, One black scrap book containing obituaries, articles and editorials regarding the Greenstone lodge, 1cm
- Series E 78/7/1-3:** Miscellaneous, 1cm, 1908 1960, (original)
- 1) "Semi-annual report", 1908, Two reports submitted to the Rebekah Association of Ontario by lodge # 86. Contained within the reports is membership and financial information, 16pgs
  - 2) History of the Rebekah lodge in Ontario, 1960, One brief history entitled, "Schuyler Colfax and the Rebekah Odd Fellowship of Ontario", 6pgs
  - 3) Newspaper clipping, 1908, Two pages removed from the April 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Daily Times Journal*. This copy was a special women's hospital edition and contains an article on the founding of the Rebekah Greenstone Lodge and its members, 2pgs

**Biographical sketch:**

The Rebekah Lodge Association is the women's division of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows which was founded by Schuyler Colfax in 1868. Originally founded in the United States, the Rebekah Lodge Association came to Ontario lodge 1869. The function of the Rebekah Lodge Association was to promote benevolence and comradery amongst its members and its community. The Greenstone Lodge was established in Fort William in 1908 with seventy-seven members. During its time as an organization, the Greenstone Lodge was very active within the community and contributed greatly to local charities. World War One and World War Two were particularly active times during which lodge members performed fundraising and underwent first aid training. The association itself was very formal and ritual intense as members were expected to adhere to strict guidelines of behaviour. In 2000 the lodge was forced to close due to lack of interest. It had fourteen members.

**Additional information:**

Associated material see: 2006.110.1 - 2006.110.12