



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Knights of Pythias files

1903-1974

Sc MG 504

Processed by Miranda-Tarisa Mims, November 2014.

Summary

Creator: Knights of Pythias

Title: Knights of Pythias files

Date: 1903-1974

Size: 18.63 linear feet (21 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

Source: Gift of Denise Lamaute, 1988.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Dr. Thomas W. Stringer was the founder of the first Black Order of the fraternal organization, Knights of Pythias, known as the "Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias of North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa" (KPNSEAAA). This collection is primarily comprised of ledgers containing financial records, minutes, and annual reports for the various lodges.

Preferred citation: [Item], Knights of Pythias files, Sc MG 504, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Miranda-Tarisa Mims, November 2014.

Creator History

In 1869, the Knights of Pythias Supreme Lodge held a meeting in Richmond, Virginia, to discuss instituting a charter for an African American lodge. Although the charter was denied, it prompted Black men to create their own fraternal lodge. Dr. Thomas W. Stringer was the founder of the Black Order known as the "Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias of North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa" (KPNSEAAA). Around 1880, the first Black Orders were established in Mississippi: Lightfoot Lodge No. 1, Meridian Lodge No. 2, and Damon Lodge No. 3. KPNSEAAA's membership grew steadily. By 1897, 40,000 men had been initiated, including those in the West Indies and Central America; however, the majority of members were in the United States.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is primarily comprised of ledgers containing financial records, minutes, and annual reports for the various lodges. The ledgers are organized by lodge, except for several oversized ledgers from different lodges that are housed together due to their size.

Of particular note are the death claim files and beneficiary applications, which hold membership information across all lodges, including the Sojourna Household of Ruth, an auxiliary of the Order. Additionally, there are administrative documents belonging to the governing bodies, i.e., the Master of Works Council #1 and the Pycal Holding Corporation; publications created by the different lodges and the Sojourna Household of Ruth; and as well as miscellaneous paraphernalia.

Arrangement: Arranged into 2 series: I. Administrative and II. Lodges.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American fraternal organizations
African American Greek letter societies
African Americans -- Social life and customs
African Americans -- Societies, etc

Names

Knights of Pythias
Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia
Knights of Pythias. Emanuel Lodge No. 3
Knights of Pythias. Grand Lodge
Knights of Pythias. Majestic Lodge No. 7
Knights of Pythias. Manhattan Lodge No. 55
Knights of Pythias. Reserve Fund Department

Container List

Administrative

Death claims

b. 1 f. 1	Alexander, Charles
b. 1 f. 2	Alston, Arthur
b. 1 f. 3	Allston, Charles
b. 1 f. 4	Alston, William
b. 1 f. 5	Amos, James
b. 1 f. 6	Anderson, Thomas
b. 1 f. 7	Ashbee, James
b. 1 f. 8	Arthur, Harry Hamilton
b. 1 f. 9	Avery, George
b. 1 f. 10	Bailey, E. Samuel
b. 1 f. 11	Banks, James
b. 1 f. 12	Bartee, Robert L
b. 1 f. 13	Beaman, Charles
b. 1 f. 14	Bell, Cornelius
b. 1 f. 15	Bennett, Arthur
b. 1 f. 16	Bennett, Robert
b. 1 f. 17	Blanche, Jenkinson
b. 1 f. 18	Blanchard, Frank
b. 1 f. 19	Bligen, Samuel
b. 1 f. 20	Bly, Simon
b. 1 f. 21	Bookman, Preston
b. 1 f. 22	Bracy, William
b. 1 f. 23	Braye, Walter
b. 1 f. 24	Brazier, Sylvester
b. 1 f. 25	Brodus, George
b. 1 f. 26	Broughton, William
b. 1 f. 27	Bronson, Soul
b. 1 f. 28	Brooks, Clinton
b. 1 f. 29	Brooms, John D
b. 1 f. 30	Brown, Benjamin
b. 1 f. 31	Brown, William
b. 1 f. 32	Brundage, Thomas
b. 1 f. 33	Bullock, Joseph
b. 1 f. 34	Burns, Wayman
b. 1 f. 35	Burwell, Welford
b. 1 f. 36	Buren, Joseph Van
b. 1 f. 37	Campbell, Henry

Administrative (cont.)

Death claims (cont.)

b. 1 f. 38	Capps, George
b. 1 f. 39	Cauley, Charles
b. 1 f. 40	Charles, Motley
b. 1 f. 41	Christmas, James
b. 1 f. 42	Clarke, Herman
b. 1 f. 43	Clouden, Joseph
b. 1 f. 44	Cohn, James
b. 1 f. 45	Cook, Jerome
b. 1 f. 46	Corn, William
b. 1 f. 47	Corker, William
b. 1 f. 48	Cosby, Emmanuel C
b. 1 f. 49	Dawson, Fred O
b. 1 f. 50	Davis, Fenis E
b. 1 f. 51	Deskins, George H
b. 1 f. 52	Dennis, George
b. 1 f. 53	Dickson, Chas A
b. 1 f. 54	Dickerson, John H
b. 1 f. 55	Dixon, John
b. 1 f. 56	Douglass, Edmund
b. 1 f. 57	Doughthit, Nathaniel G
b. 1 f. 58	Drafts, Rufus H
b. 1 f. 59	Duckwiler, William H
b. 1 f. 60	Duckett, Bertram
b. 1 f. 61	Dwyer, Earnest A
b. 1 f. 62	Edmonds, Jackson E
b. 1 f. 63	Elder, Robert
b. 1 f. 64	Ellis, Alfred E
b. 1 f. 65	Emmanuel, Christopher H
b. 1 f. 66	Enoch, Johnson
b. 1 f. 67	Evans, Mills
b. 1 f. 68	Evans, Williams
b. 1 f. 69	Farrish, Walter R
b. 1 f. 70	Ferguson, Nathaniel
b. 1 f. 71	Fletcher, William W
b. 1 f. 72	Flicking, John
b. 1 f. 73	Ford, Clavence
b. 1 f. 74	Ford, Harrison
b. 1 f. 75	Ford, John B
b. 1 f. 76	Francis, Albert
b. 1 f. 77	Frazier, Edward F
b. 1 f. 78	Frazier, Luscious

Administrative (cont.)

Death claims (cont.)

b. 1 f. 79	Frazier, Charles
b. 1 f. 80	Gant, Joseph
b. 1 f. 81	Gardner, James W
b. 1 f. 82	Gerst, Howard G
b. 1 f. 83	Gibson, J. D
b. 1 f. 84	Gilchrist, James
b. 1 f. 85	Glover, Chas
b. 1 f. 86	Godsay, Stanley
b. 1 f. 87	Gordy, Daniel
b. 1 f. 88	Gordon, William
b. 1 f. 89	Grant, John
b. 1 f. 90	Grant, Thomas
b. 1 f. 91	Green, William H
b. 1 f. 92	Green, Octavis
b. 1 f. 93	Grimes, Richard
b. 1 f. 94	Gross, Williams
b. 1 f. 95	Guillard, Edward
b. 1 f. 96	Hall, James
b. 1 f. 97	Hall, William W
b. 1 f. 98	Harris, Daniel
b. 1 f. 99	Hellburg, Bartolu E
b. 1 f. 100	Henry, Felix
b. 1 f. 101	Hinton, Benjamin Harrison
b. 1 f. 102	Hocker, John
b. 1 f. 103	Hodge, James
b. 1 f. 104	Holdman, Joseph C
b. 1 f. 105	Hollister, Philip
b. 1 f. 106	Horne, Oscar
b. 1 f. 107	Howard, Arthur M
b. 1 f. 108	Howard, Edward
b. 1 f. 109	Howard, Gaines
b. 1 f. 110	Howard, Roma
b. 1 f. 111	Huntley, Fred
b. 1 f. 112	Isham, Albert O
b. 1 f. 113	Ivey, Willie-Wade
b. 1 f. 114	Jackson, Andrew
b. 1 f. 115	Jackson, Daniel E
b. 1 f. 116	Jackson, Henley
b. 1 f. 117	Jackson, John
b. 1 f. 118	Jackson, Joshua
b. 2 f. 1	Jackson, Stacia Williams

Administrative (cont.)

Death claims (cont.)

b. 2 f. 2	Jackson, William
b. 2 f. 3	Jeffries, Robert
b. 2 f. 4	Jenkins, Joseph
b. 2 f. 5	Johnson, Charles A
b. 2 f. 6	Johnson, Clarence
b. 2 f. 7	Johnson, Joseph
b. 2 f. 8	Johnson, Oliver
b. 2 f. 9	Johnson, Sophie
b. 2 f. 10	Johnson, Richard
b. 2 f. 11	Jones, Allen B
b. 2 f. 12	Jones, Cornelius
b. 2 f. 13	Jones, Edward
b. 2 f. 14	Jones, Henry
b. 2 f. 15	Jones, Wiley
b. 2 f. 16	Jordan, William
b. 2 f. 17	Kiah, Charles
b. 2 f. 18	Kimble, Freeman R
b. 2 f. 19	King, Floyd
b. 2 f. 20	Knox, William
b. 2 f. 21	La Borde, Frederick
b. 2 f. 22	Latimer, Ezekiel L
b. 2 f. 23	Lattimore, Andrew B
b. 2 f. 24	Lawson, B. J
b. 2 f. 25	Lewis, Albert
b. 2 f. 26	Lewis, Lee A
b. 2 f. 27	Lindsay, Marty
b. 2 f. 28	Lindstead, Samuel
b. 2 f. 29	McAcoo, Henry
b. 2 f. 30	McGhee, Aaron
b. 2 f. 31	McLawrin, Bryant
b. 2 f. 32	McKay, Chas
b. 2 f. 33	McKay, George
b. 2 f. 34	McKoy, Alex
b. 2 f. 35	McKnight, Henry
b. 2 f. 36	McKenny, Ralph
b. 2 f. 37	Marson, Henry
b. 2 f. 38	Martin, Henry Clay
b. 2 f. 39	Massey, Charles Henry
b. 2 f. 40	Massey, Leonard A
b. 2 f. 41	Miller, Martin
b. 2 f. 42	Miller, William H

Administrative (cont.)

Death claims (cont.)

b. 2 f. 43	Michell, William
b. 2 f. 44	Mitchell, Ernest
b. 2 f. 45	Moore, George
b. 2 f. 46	Moore, Walter A
b. 2 f. 47	Morris, Ed
b. 2 f. 48	Morris, Ollie
b. 2 f. 49	Mosley, Handy
b. 2 f. 50	Mundin, Percy C
b. 2 f. 51	Myers, Zachariah H
b. 2 f. 52	Nash, Aubrey
b. 2 f. 53	Nelson, Edward
b. 2 f. 54	Nettles, Robert
b. 2 f. 55	Newbie, Henry R
b. 2 f. 56	Norris, Issac
b. 2 f. 57	Olston, William
b. 2 f. 58	Patterson, Alphonso
b. 2 f. 59	Paulson, Frank
b. 2 f. 60	Payne, William
b. 2 f. 61	Perry, Joseph
b. 2 f. 62	Pettigrew, Thomas
b. 2 f. 63	Phinney, Peter
b. 2 f. 64	Pierce, Edward
b. 2 f. 65	Pinkney, James
b. 2 f. 66	Poole, Henry
b. 2 f. 67	Porter, Charles
b. 2 f. 68	Powell, William
b. 2 f. 69	Preston, Oscar
b. 2 f. 70	Randall, Edward
b. 2 f. 71	Reedy, Clyde
b. 2 f. 72	Reevey, Frank
b. 2 f. 73	Robinson, John
b. 2 f. 74	Robinson, Mayweather
b. 2 f. 75	Robinson, William
b. 2 f. 76	Roach, Charles
b. 2 f. 77	Russell, James
b. 2 f. 78	Samuel, Frazier
b. 2 f. 79	Scantleberry, Albert
b. 2 f. 80	Schuyler, John
b. 2 f. 81	Selvery, Robert
b. 2 f. 82	Shepherd, Wilson
b. 2 f. 83	Sims, George

Administrative (cont.)

Death claims (cont.)

b. 2 f. 84	Singleton, William
b. 2 f. 85	Sisco, John
b. 2 f. 86	Small, Charles
b. 2 f. 87	Smalls, Julius
b. 2 f. 88	Smallwood, William
b. 2 f. 89	Smith, Charles
b. 2 f. 90	Smith, James
b. 2 f. 91	Smith, Thaddeus
b. 2 f. 92	Stewart, Alonzo
b. 2 f. 93	Taylor, Charles
b. 2 f. 94	Taylor, Edward
b. 2 f. 95	Taylor, Oliver
b. 2 f. 96	Taylor, William
b. 2 f. 97	Thomas, Horace
b. 2 f. 98	Thomas, James
b. 2 f. 99	Thomas, John
b. 2 f. 100	Thomas, Jarvis
b. 2 f. 101	Thomas, Leonard
b. 2 f. 102	Thomas, Lockheart, Jr
b. 2 f. 103	Thomas, Ottey
b. 2 f. 104	Thompson, Howard
b. 2 f. 105	Thompson, Owen
b. 2 f. 106	Toles, Lewis
b. 2 f. 107	Tribbitt, Harry
b. 2 f. 108	Turner, Emmett
b. 2 f. 109	Vann, Robert
b. 2 f. 110	Vaughters, Wirt
b. 2 f. 111	Wallace, Thomas
b. 2 f. 112	Walter, David E
b. 2 f. 113	Washington, Issac
b. 2 f. 114	Washington, John
b. 2 f. 115	Weaver, Frank
b. 2 f. 116	Webb, Isaac
b. 2 f. 117	Weston, King
b. 2 f. 118	Whidbee, George
b. 2 f. 119	William, Lazarus
b. 2 f. 120	William, Olston
b. 2 f. 121	Williams, Carl
b. 2 f. 122	Williams, George
b. 2 f. 123	Williams, Henry
b. 2 f. 124	Williams, Isiah

Administrative (cont.)

Death claims (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 125 Williams, James
- b. 2 f. 126 Williams, Phillip
- b. 3 f. 1 Wilson, James D
- b. 3 f. 2 Wiltshire, Courtenay A
- b. 3 f. 3 Wood, George
- b. 3 f. 4 Woodley, William
- b. 3 f. 5 Woodson, Henry
- b. 3 f. 6 Yates, Curtis
- b. 3 f. 7 Yates, Matthew
- b. 3 f. 8 Young, Wesley
- b. 3 f. 9 Zeno, James
- b. 3 f. 10-13 Individual death claims
- b. 3 f. 14 Miscellaneous
- b. 3 f. 15 Unidentifiable
- b. 3 f. 16 Sojourna Household of Ruth
- b. 4 Beneficiary applications 1923-1930
- b. 5 Membership books
- Master of Works Council #1
- b. 6 f. 1 Correspondence
- Financial
- b. 6 f. 2 1945-1950
- b. 6 f. 3 1956
- b. 6 f. 4 1957
- b. 6 f. 5 1958
- b. 6 f. 6 1959
- b. 6 f. 7 1960
- b. 6 f. 8 1961
- Pycal Holding Corporation, correspondence and financial
- b. 6 f. 9 1958
- b. 6 f. 10 1959
- b. 6 f. 11 1961
- b. 6 f. 12 1962
- b. 6 f. 13 1963
- b. 6 f. 14 1964
- b. 6 f. 15 1965
- b. 6 f. 16 1966
- b. 6 f. 17 1967
- b. 6 f. 18 1968
- b. 6 f. 19 1969
- b. 6 f. 20 1970
- b. 6 f. 21 1971

Administrative (cont.)

Pycal Holding Corporation, correspondence and financial (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 22 1972
- b. 6 f. 23 1973
- b. 6 f. 24 1974

Lodges

Grand Lodge

- b. 7 f. 1 Correspondence
- b. 7 f. 2 Legal 1949-1956
- b. 7 f. 3 Bonds 1922-1923
- b. 7 f. 4 Proclamations
- b. 7 f. 5 Financial and insurance information

Minutes

- b. 7 f. 6 1920-1929
- b. 7 f. 7 1940-1949
- b. 7 f. 8 1950-1959
- b. 7 f. 9 1960-1969
- b. 7 f. 10 Supreme Lodge, ritual for subordinate lodges 1903
- Reserve Fund Department, minutes and annual reports
- b. 7 f. 11 1924-1927
- b. 7 f. 12 1928-1929
- b. 7 f. 13 1930-1933
- b. 7 f. 14 1934-1936
- b. 7 f. 15 1937-1939
- b. 7 f. 16 1940-1944
- b. 7 f. 17 1946-1948
- b. 7 f. 18 1942-1956
- b. 7 f. 19-20 1950-1959
- b. 7 f. 21 1960-1969
- b. 7 f. 22 Receipts 1950-1969
- b. 16 An oversized receipt book, 1947-1960, is in box 16.
- b. 7 f. 23 Auxiliaries
- b. 15 Ledger 1932-1944

Excelsior Lodge No. 7335, Grand United Order of Odd Fellows

- b. 8 f. 1-2 Ledgers
- b. 8 f. 3 Bank statements and checks 1960-1961
- b. 8 f. 4 Other financial 1940-1961
- b. 16 An oversized ledger from the 1940s is in box 16.
- b. 8 f. 5 Constitution, by-laws, and rules of order

Emanuel Lodge No.3

- b. 9 f. 1 Correspondence
- b. 9 f. 2-7 Meeting minutes, annual reports, and notes
- b. 9 f. 8 Semiannual reports
- b. 9 f. 9 Roster

Lodges (cont.)

Emanuel Lodge No.3 (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 10 Applications for membership
- b. 9 f. 11-13 Financial, general
- b. 9 f. 14-16 Receipts 1940s-1950s
- b. 9 f. 17 Endowment policies
- b. 9 f. 18 Proclamations
- b. 9 f. 19 Printed matter
- b. 16 Ledger

Majestic Lodge No. 7

- b. 10 f. 1-3 Correspondence
- b. 10 f. 4 Meeting minutes
- b. 10 f. 5-8 Financial, general
- Receipts
- b. 10 f. 9 1945-1948
- b. 10 f. 10 1949-1952
- b. 10 f. 11 1953-1954
- b. 10 f. 12 1949-1954
- b. 10 f. 13 1955-1956
- b. 10 f. 14 1957-1958
- b. 10 f. 15 1959
- b. 10 f. 16 1961-1964
- b. 10 f. 17-18 Receipt books
- b. 16 Ledger 1949-1958

Manhattan Lodge, No. 55

- b. 11 Receipt books 1933-1955
Includes 4 books.
- b. 11 f. 1-2 Log sheets 1954-1956
- b. 11 f. 3 Financial, general 1954-1955
- b. 11 f. 4 Receipts 1939-1956
- b. 11 f. 5 Correspondence
- b. 12 Ledgers 1920-1943
- b. 15 Includes 6 ledgers in box 12; box 15 contains an oversized ledger, 1935-1940..

No. 63 Castle Hall of St. Paul Lodge

- b. 13 f. 1-2 Correspondence
- b. 13 f. 3 Financial, meeting minutes, and reports 1921-1969
Includes ledgers (2 account books, 1923-1930 and 1945-1959, 2 minute books 1923-1925 and 1936-1940, and a report book, 1921-1924), check stub books (2), ca. 1950s-1960s, and a registry, 1921-1954.
- b. 13 f. 4 The Brave Club/Restaurant 1943-1949
Includes correspondence and background information; financial reports, 1943-1949; a bill file, 1943; and a minutes ledger. - Minutes
- b. 15 Ledger 1930-1936

Lafayette Hall (Sojourna House of Ruth)

Lodges (cont.)

Lafayette Hall (Sojourna House of Ruth) (cont.)

- b. 14 **Ledgers 1914-1959**
Includes one minute book for Sojourna House of Ruth No. 3573, 1914-1928, and 6 other ledgers.
Correspondence and financial matters
 - b. 14 f. 1 **Red Cross**
 - b. 14 f. 2 **1920-1929**
 - b. 14 f. 3 **1940-1944**
 - b. 14 f. 4 **1946-1947**
 - b. 14 f. 5 **1948**
 - b. 14 f. 6 **1949**
 - b. 14 f. 7 **1950**
 - b. 14 f. 8 **1951**
 - b. 14 f. 9 **1952**
 - b. 14 f. 10 **1953**
 - b. 14 f. 11 **1950-1969**
 - b. 14 f. 12 **undated**
 - b. 14 f. 13 **Bills and receipts**
 - Death claims and beneficiary records**
 - b. 14 f. 14 **Banks, Emile**
 - b. 14 f. 15 **Branche, Rachel**
 - b. 14 f. 16 **Brown, Celeste**
 - b. 14 f. 17 **Francis, Geneva**
 - b. 14 f. 18 **Green, Thethia**
 - b. 14 f. 19 **Hill, Mattie B**
 - b. 14 f. 20 **Matthews, Leandra**
 - b. 14 f. 21 **Plummer, Katie**
 - b. 14 f. 22 **Tolbert, Florence**
- b. 14 **By-laws, member financial account books, and financial records 1930-1949**
Items included in small box inside of box 14.
- Miscellaneous lodges**
 - b. 17 **Ledgers 1946-1960**
Includes 3 ledgers, 2 of which are financial.
 - b. 17 f. 1 **Correspondence**
 - b. 17 f. 2-5 **Financial**
 - b. 17 f. 6 **Event announcements**
 - b. 17 f. 7 **Letterhead**
 - b. 17 f. 8 **Miscellaneous**
 - b. 18-20 **Printed matter**
 - b. 21 **Miscellaneous paraphernalia**
 - o. 1 **Certificates**