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Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Boyer Lodge No. 1 records

1849-1980

Sc MG 734

Processed by Janice Quinter, December 29, 2009.

Summary

Creator: Freemasons. Boyer Lodge No. 1 (New York, N.Y.)

Title: Boyer Lodge No. 1 records

Date: 1849-1980

Size: 3.75 linear feet (9 boxes)

Source: Gift of Boyer Lodge No. 1, 2004 and 2008.

Abstract: The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts chartered the Boyer Lodge in New York City for free black men in 1812; this was also the first Prince Hall Masonic lodge in New York State. The Boyer Lodge No. 1 Records consist primarily of ledger books.

Preferred citation: [Item], Boyer Lodge No. 1 records, Sc MG 734, 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 Janice Quinter, December 29, 2009.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: books and periodicals

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Creator History

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts chartered the Boyer Lodge in New York City for free black men in 1812; this was also the first Prince Hall Masonic lodge in New York State. By 1826, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge had chartered three other lodges in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and in 1845, it

organized the Boyer Grand Lodge F. and A. M. (Free and Accepted Masons) of New York. In the early 1860s, Boyer Lodge No. 1 absorbed Meridian Lodge and in 1931, it merged with Mount Hope Lodge No. 32. Boyer Lodge is recognized as the "Mother Lodge" and is currently still in existence.

Other lodges associated with Boyer include Mount Hope Lodge No. 52, Benevolent Sons of Roberson Lodge, Covenant Lodge No. 7, Mount Olive Lodge No. 2, Celestial Lodge No. 2, Rising Sun Lodge No. 3, Hiram Lodge No. 4, Adelpic Union Lodge No 7, Stone Square Lodge No. 6, and Olive Branch Lodge No. 5.

Scope and Content Note

The Boyer Lodge No. 1 records consist primarily of ledger books, but also include some administrative information. The first series, Boyer Lodge No. 1, includes correspondence files, 1908-1980, which discuss those who were accepted for membership or dropped from the rosters; invitations to events sponsored by Boyer Lodge; reelection of officers; financial donations made to needy members; and notices of meetings, 1908-1980. Other materials include a manuscript entitled "History of Boyer Lodge No. 1" by Harold A. Wilson (ca. 1962); official proceedings (1947, 1953-1954 and 1958); and printers' blocks.

Series two, Ledgers, includes four membership ledgers, 1863-1957, which list member's name, age, birthplace, residence, occupation, name of person who proposed membership, date joined or elected, date of initiation, dates passed and raised, and dues paid. The oldest membership ledger in the collection, the "Registry of United Grand Lodges of Various Lodges" (1863-1875), adds the name of the lodge in which the member was initiated. The lodges included in this registry are: Boyer Lodge No. 1, Celestial Lodge No. 2, Rising Sun Lodge No. 3, Hiram Lodge No. 4, Adelpic Union Lodge No. 7, Stone Square Lodge No. 6, and Olive Branch Lodge No. 5. For Boyer Lodge No. 1, there are also several minutes books, 1889-1959; members' ledgers, 1866-1960; a financial treasurer's book listing monthly balances and expenditures, 1849-1855; and additional financial records dated to 1956. Meridian Lodge No. 3 is represented by minute books and membership records, 1849-1887; Meridian Lodge No. 5 records consist of minutes, 1849 and 1883.

Arrangement: Arranged into two series: (1) Boyer Lodge No. 1 and (2) Ledgers.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American fraternal organizations
African American freemasonry -- New York (State) -- New York
African American freemasons -- New York (State) -- New York
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- History
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- Social life and customs
African Americans -- Societies, etc
Authors, Black
Freemasonry -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Freemasons. Boyer Lodge No. 1 (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

Boyer Lodge No. 1 1908-1980

Chronological file

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1 1908-1911
- b. 1 f. 2 1913-1916
- b. 1 f. 3 1917
Also includes minutes.
- b. 1 f. 4 1918-1921
- b. 1 f. 5 1922
- b. 1 f. 6 1923
- b. 1 f. 7 1924
- b. 1 f. 8 1925
- b. 1 f. 9 1926
- b. 1 f. 10 1927
Also includes receipts.
- b. 1 f. 11 1928
Also includes receipts.

Financial records

- b. 1 f. 12 Receipts 1929-1930
- b. 1 f. 13 Receipts 1931-1932
- b. 1 f. 14 1933-1934
- b. 1 f. 15 Bank receipts 1934-1937
- b. 1 f. 16 1935
- b. 1 f. 17 Reports and correspondence 1936
- b. 1 f. 18 General office file 1937
- b. 1 f. 19 Secretary's report 1938

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 20 1939
- b. 1 f. 21-22 1940
- b. 1 f. 23-24 1941
- b. 1 f. 25 1942
- b. 1 f. 26-27 1945
- b. 1 f. 28 1952-1954
- b. 1 f. 29 1957-1959
- b. 1 f. 30 1960
- b. 1 f. 31 1961
- b. 1 f. 32 1962
- b. 1 f. 33 1963
- b. 1 f. 34 Donation of historical journal to research libraries 1965

Boyer Lodge No. 1 (cont.)

Chronological file (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 35 Wilson, Harold A. "Concept of Parallel Lines" on "separate but equal" theory 1965
- b. 1 f. 36-37 Universal Square Club 1965-1974
 - General office files
 - b. 1 f. 38 1966
 - b. 1 f. 39 1968
 - b. 1 f. 40 1970-1979
 - b. 2 f. 1 Secretary's notes 1953-1954
 - Meeting notices
 - b. 2 f. 2 1956-1965
 - b. 2 f. 3 1966-1969
 - b. 2 f. 4 1970-1971
 - b. 2 f. 5 1972-1974
 - b. 2 f. 6 1975-1976
 - b. 2 f. 7 1977-1978
 - b. 2 f. 8 1979-1980
 - Membership
 - b. 2 f. 9-10 Members' copies of by-laws, rules, and regulations
 - b. 2 f. 11 Membership rosters (incomplete) 1919-1962
 - b. 2 f. 12 Petitions for initiation and membership 1934-1940
 - b. 2 f. 13 Membership cards 1941
 - b. 2 f. 14 Master Masons' certificates (12) 1946
 - b. 2 f. 15 Members' address and lodge cards 1958-1960
 - b. 2 f. 16 Thank you cards from members for donations ca. 1972-1974
 - b. 2 f. 17 Members' financial record books
 - Committees
 - b. 2 f. 18 Dance and Entertainment Committee notebook 1938-1939
 - b. 2 f. 19 Entertainment Committee list of members (notebook) 1939-1940
 - b. 2 f. 20 Committees' reports (notebook) 1941
 - Study class
 - b. 2 Attendance notebook 1957-1958
 - b. 2 f. 22 Attendance notebook 1958-1960
 - b. 2 f. 23 Notebook 1962-1969
 - b. 2 f. 24 Attendance notebook 1972-1974
 - Printed matter
 - b. 2 f. 25 *Freemasonry among Men of Color in New York State* 1958
 - b. 2 f. 26 *1812-1962 Sesquicentennial*
Includes history by Harold A. Wilson.
 - b. 2 f. 27-28 Wilson, Harold A. "History of Boyer Lodge No. 1" 1941-1967
Includes manuscript and background information.
 - b. 2 f. 29 Undated material
 - b. 2 f. 30 Printers' blocks (5)

Boyer Lodge No. 1 (cont.)

M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge

- b. 2 f. 31 Edict No. 1 1921
- b. 2 f. 32-33 Official proceedings and annual communication 1947-1958

Ledgers 1844-1964

Boyer Lodge No. 1

Minute books

- b. 3 f. 1 1889-1906
- b. 3 f. 2 1915-1918
- b. 3 f. 3 1945-1953
- b. 3 f. 4 1953-1959

Members' ledgers

- b. 4 f. 1 Roll call book 1866-1882
- b. 4 f. 2 Membership register 1900-1910
- b. 4 f. 3 Members' ledger 1935-1949
- b. 5 f. 1 Members' ledger 1944-1960
- b. 5 f. 2 Visitors' register 1927-1964

Financial ledgers

- b. 5 f. 3 Treasurer's book 1849-1855
- b. 5 f. 4 Dues and tax receipt book 1909-1933
- b. 5 f. 5 Cash book 1926-1933
- b. 5 f. 6 Treasurer's notes on lodge dues and initiation fees (personal log) 1935-1940
- b. 6 f. 1 Receipt book 1952-1956

Meridian Lodge No. 3

- b. 6 f. 2-3 Minutes 1849-1968
Includes membership dues and taxes paid, 1849-1850.
 - b. 6 f. 4 Minutes book 1850-1864
 - b. 7 f. 1 Minutes book 1864-1887
 - b. 7 f. 2 Minutes and list of members 1868-1932
Also includes Boyer Lodge No. 1 list of members, 1935-1946.
 - b. 7 f. 3 Minutes book 1875-1882
 - b. 7 f. 4 Treasurer's membership ledger 1857-1863
 - b. 7 f. 5 Membership dues paid 1874-1880
 - b. 8 f. 1 Receipts 1851-1862
 - b. 8 f. 2 Receipt book 1874-1881
 - b. 8 f. 3 Benevolent Sons of Roberson Lodge and Meridian Lodge No. 3 minutes 1844-1883
 - b. 8 f. 4 Covenant Lodge No. 7 by-laws 1880
- Mount Hope Lodge No. 52
- b. 8 f. 5 Miscellaneous 1916-1926
 - b. 8 f. 6 Membership register 1918-1929
 - b. 8 f. 7 Mount Olive Lodge No. 2 1925

Ledgers (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 8 **Registry of United Grand Lodge 1863-1875**
Includes Boyer Lodge No. 1, Celestial Lodge No. 2, Rising Sun Lodge No. 3, Hiram Lodge No. 4, Adelpic Union Lodge No. 7, Stone Square Lodge No. 6, and Olive Branch Lodge No. 5.
- b. 9 f. 1-2 **Bibles**
Includes Bible of Mount Hope Lodge No. 52.