

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS

AFC 103

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – December 2009

**WESTERN ARCHIVES
AFC 103
COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS**

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COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS
AFC 103
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1896, 1914-1951, 1957-1959

Extent

8 folders of textual records
1 volume of textual records

Administrative History

The Royal Black Preceptory is a Protestant Christian organization, founded in Ireland in 1797. While being a separate organization, the Royal Black Preceptory is affiliated with the Orange Order, a fraternal organization formed in Ireland in 1795 in honour of William of Orange's 1690 victory at the Battle of the Boyne. Any prospective member of the Royal Black Preceptory must be an Orangeman first, having risen to the Royal Arch Purple degree.

According to the Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West, an applicant must be an observant Protestant, dedicated to charitable outreach and responsible citizenship.

In Canada, lodges are organized within individual communities, with local district preceptories linked to the Grand Black Chapter of British North America through a regional chapter like the Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West. Members of the Royal Black Preceptory often strive to rise in the Biblically-based Degree system. Degrees are conferred after application and advanced study.

The County Black Chapter of Middlesex was officially instituted on May 2, 1914; prior to this, Royal Black Preceptories from Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford Counties shared administrative duties. The County Black Chapter of Middlesex organized nine Royal Black Preceptories in the Middlesex County area:

- King David Royal Black Preceptory #158
- Covenant Royal Black Preceptory #346
- Pride of Middlesex Royal Black Preceptory #757
- Inniskilling Royal Black Preceptory #834
- Duke of York Royal Black Preceptory #914
- King Solomon's Royal Black Preceptory #937
- Langemarck Royal Black Preceptory #956
- Tuscan Royal Black Preceptory #962
- Derry Walls Royal Black Preceptory #1035

These nine preceptories reported to, and communicated through, the County Black Chapter.

The first known officers (1914) were:

Joseph Murray – County Preceptor

Henry Mahon – Deputy County Preceptor

Robert Aitken – Treasurer

Scope and Content

This fonds contains the administrative records of the County Black Chapter of Middlesex. Minutes of meetings, annual returns, correspondence, and miscellaneous documents are included.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

Series 1: Annual returns

Series 2: County Master's address

Series 3: Guest books

Series 4: Minutes of meetings

Series 5: Reports of proceedings

Series 6: Correspondence

Series 7: Miscellaneous documents

Finding Aids

File and item lists are available.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Annual returns were purchased at an auction of the effects of the Orange Lodge building at 388 Clarence Street in June, 1975. Everything else was donated by the London Orange Hall Board on July 10, 2001.

Note

Material was originally stored in boxes B4268, B5619, B5621.

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS
AFC 103
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 1 Annual returns

Dates

1932-1948, 1957-1958

Extent

2 folders of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains annual returns sent to, or sent by, the County Black Chapter of Middlesex. Reports of local preceptories, as well as summary accounts sent to the Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West, are included.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in the following sub-series:

Sub-series 1.1: Local preceptory annual returns

Sub-series 1.2: County Black Chapter of Middlesex annual returns

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 1.1 Local preceptor annual returns

Dates

1932-1937, 1940-1948, 1957-1958

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains annual returns sent to the County Black Chapter of Middlesex by local preceptories.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Local preceptory annual returns	1932-1937, 1940-1948, 1957-1958	AFC 103-1-1

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Sub-series 1.2 **County Black Chapter of Middlesex annual returns**

Dates

1936-1946

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains annual returns or sent by the County Black Chapter of Middlesex to the Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
County Black Chapter of Middlesex annual returns	1936-1946	AFC 103-1-2

**COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS
AFC 103
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 2 **County Master's address**

Dates

1945

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains a copy of County Master W.B. Clipperton's address, read at the 1945 annual meeting.

File and Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
County Master's address	1945	AFC 103-1-3

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 3 Guest books

Dates

[ca. 1940]

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains registries of names of visiting Royal Black Preceptory members to the County Black Chapter of Middlesex. Names from Middlesex County predominate, although there are also visitors from throughout Canada and the United States.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Guest books	[ca. 1940]	AFC 103-1-4

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AFC 103
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 4 Minutes of meetings

Dates

1914-1937

Extent

1 volume of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains minutes of regular meetings of the County Black Chapter of Middlesex.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Minute book [vol.]	1914-1937	AFC 103-1

**COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS
AFC 103
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 5 Reports of proceedings

Dates

1896, 1926, 1932, 1953

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains reports of proceedings of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West annual meetings, all held in London, Ontario.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Records of proceedings	1896, 1926, 1932, 1953	AFC 103-2-1

**COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS
AFC 103
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 6 Correspondence

Dates

1935-1951, 1958-1959

Extent

2 folders of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence addressed to the County Black Chapter of Middlesex. Several copies of outgoing letters are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Correspondence	1935-1951	AFC 103-2-2
Correspondence	1958-1959	AFC 103-2-3

**COUNTY BLACK CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX FONDS
AFC 103
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 7 Miscellaneous documents

Dates

1932-1949

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains miscellaneous documents of the County Black Chapter of Middlesex. Notes, lists, and committee reports are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Miscellaneous documents	1932-1949	AFC 103-2-4