

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**



**INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS  
UNITY ENCAMPMENT #21 FONDS**

**AFC 124**

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – January 2010

**WESTERN ARCHIVES  
AFC 124  
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS  
UNITY ENCAMPMENT #21 FONDS**

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**INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS  
UNITY ENCAMPMENT #21 FONDS  
AFC 124  
FONDS DESCRIPTION**

**Dates**

1873-1985

**Extent**

2 volumes of textual records

**Administrative History**

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a benevolent fraternal organization; originally founded in the United States in 1819, it separated from the British Odd Fellows in the 1830s. Its mandate is to “improve and elevate the character of mankind;” charitable work community involvement make up a large part of Oddfellowship. Belief in a supreme being is the only requirement for membership; there are women’s and children’s groups within the I.O.O.F. family as well. The motto, “Friendship, Love, and Truth” is exemplified in the initiatory degrees of the I.O.O.F. and is represented by a three-linked chain. While the order is inter-faith, the lessons taught are derived from the Christian Bible.

The Grand Encampment of Ontario was instituted on August 6, 1869. Encampments are higher branches of Odd Fellowship, offering three degrees (Patriarch, Golden Rule, and Royal Purple). One must be a member in good standing of a subordinate (local) lodge, having already achieved the three degrees available at that level in order to qualify for membership in an Encampment. Members of an Encampment who have achieved the Royal Purple degree are eligible for membership in the Patriarchs Militant. Encampments often have a Ladies Auxiliary branch, offering higher degrees than are available in the Rebekah Lodge.

The Unity Encampment #21 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted at Ingersoll, Ontario on October 6, 1873. Most of the members held their local membership in Samaritan Lodge #35 (Ingersoll). The charter members were James McDonald, William Bell, H. Kerr, C. Wilson, James Harris, and William McNaughton.

**Scope and Content**

This fonds contains records from the Unity Encampment #21 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Ingersoll, Ontario. Membership documents are included.

**Arrangement**

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

Series 1: Membership documents

**Finding Aids**

Item list is available.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Donated by Edward Phelps in 1994.

**Conditions Governing Access**

No restrictions on access.

**INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS  
UNITY ENCAMPMENT #21 FONDS  
AFC 124  
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 1      Membership documents**

**Dates**

1873-1985

**Extent**

2 volumes of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains a membership register and a membership application book from Unity Encampment #21. Details of the members' or applicants' name, age, residence, occupation, and local lodge affiliation are included.

**Item List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Register of membership [vol.]	1873-1984	AFC 124-1-1
Membership application book [vol.]	1920-1985	AFC 124-1-2