

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



THAMESFORD LOYAL ORANGE LODGE #625 FONDS

AFC 94

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

WESTERN ARCHIVES
AFC 94
THAMESFORD LOYAL ORANGE LODGE #625 FONDS

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THAMESFORD LOYAL ORANGE LODGE #625 FONDS
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FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1855-1863, 1869-1888, 1891-1989

Extent

2 folders of textual records
14 volumes of textual records

Administrative History

The Orange Order is a Protestant Christian fraternal organization, formed in Ireland in 1795 in honour of William of Orange's 1690 victory at the Battle of the Boyne. The Grand Lodge of British North America was founded in Brockville, Ontario in 1830, although there is evidence that Orangemen were active in Canada during the War of 1812.

According to the constitution of Canada's Loyal Orange Association, an applicant must be an observant Protestant Christian and be loyal to Queen and country. Members are called to be kind to others and to assist in benevolent activities within the community.

In Canada, lodges are organized within individual communities, with local district lodges, county lodges, and regional lodges forming a link to the Grand Lodge of British North America. Members of the Loyal Orange Association often strive to rise in the Biblically-based Degree system, from Orange Degree (initiation) to Blue Degree, Royal Arch Purple Degree, and Scarlet Degree. Degrees are conferred after application and advanced study. Members of the Orange Order celebrate the Battle of the Boyne every July 12, often marching in parades and playing in bands.

Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625 was originally founded on May 27, 1855. Meetings were originally held in the home of Orangeman Alexander Johnston on the 4th concession of North Dorchester Township. Around 1867, meetings began to be held at various rented halls and lodges in the Thamesford, Ontario area.

The earliest known officers (1859) were:

Bro. Joseph Spearman – Worshipful Master
Bro. Thomas Ovens – Deputy Master
Bro. William Johnston – Secretary
Bro. Alexander Johnston – Treasurer

In January 1973, meetings were moved to the hall at Dicksons Corners, half way between Thamesford and Ingersoll, Ontario. In 1974, Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625 became Progressive Loyal Orange Lodge #625, and the group began meeting at the Optimist building, and then at the Odd Fellows building in Ingersoll.

Scope and Content

This fonds contains record books, financial records, and annual returns of Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625 and Progressive Loyal Orange Lodge #625.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Record books
- Series 2: Financial records
- Series 3: Minutes of meetings
- Series 4: Annual returns

Finding Aids

File and item lists are available.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The oldest record book was donated by Edward Phelps in 1994. All other records were purchased from a manuscript dealer in March, 1997.

Note

Material was originally stored in boxes X1000 and B4271.

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

THAMESFORD LOYAL ORANGE LODGE #625 FONDS
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 1 Record books

Dates

1855-1863, 1869-1887

Extent

2 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains the recording secretary's books from Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625. Details of dues paid, minutes of meetings, and other lodge information are all recorded in the same book.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Record book [vol.]	1855-1863	AFC 94-1-2
Record book [vol.]	1869-1887	AFC 94-2

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 2 Financial records

Dates

1884-1888, 1891-1989

Extent

1 folder of textual records
9 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains the financial records of Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625. Treasurer's books, dues books, bank books, day books, and a ledger are included.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in the following sub-series:

- Sub-series 2.1: Treasurer's books
- Sub-series 2.2: Dues book
- Sub-series 2.3: Ledger
- Sub-series 2.4: Day books
- Sub-series 2.5: Bank books

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 2.1 Treasurer's books

Dates

1895-1989

Extent

3 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains a treasurer's book for Progressive Loyal Orange Lodge #625.
Records of receipts and expenses are mixed and sorted by date.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Treasurer's book [vol.]	1895-1959	AFC 94-2
Treasurer's book [vol.]	1901-1972	AFC 94-2
Treasurer's book [vol.]	1972-1989	AFC 94-1-4

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Sub-series 2.2 Dues and roll books

Dates

1884-1888, 1922-1939

Extent

2 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains the financial secretary's roll books for Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625. Records of dues received are sorted by individual member name.

File and Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Roll book [vol.]	1884-1888	AFC 94-1-13
Dues book [vol.]	1922-1939	AFC 94-1-3

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Sub-series 2.3 Ledger

Dates

1897-1924

Extent

1 volume of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains a financial ledger from Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625. Receipts, expenses, and dues paid are sorted into separate accounts.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Ledger [vol.]	1897-1924	AFC 94-1-9

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Sub-series 2.4 Day books

Dates

1891-1940

Extent

3 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains day books detailing the finances of Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625. Receipts and expenses are sorted by day, and often only recorded once monthly.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Day book [vol.]	1891-1925	AFC 94-1-11
Day book [vol.]	1925-1931	AFC 94-1-10
Day book [vol.]	1931-1940	AFC 94-1-12

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Sub-series 2.5 Bank books

Dates

1952-1969

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains two bank books belonging to Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Bank books	1952-1969	AFC 94-1-14

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 3 Minutes of meetings

Dates

1883-1935, 1942-1984

Extent

5 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains minute books detailing the activities during regular and special meetings of Progressive Loyal Orange Lodge #625.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Minutes [vol.]	1883-1907	AFC 94-1-7
Minutes [vol.]	1907-1925	AFC 94-1-8
Minutes [vol.]	1925-1935	AFC 94-1-6
L.O.L. 625 Thamesford [vol.]	1942-1977	AFC 94-1-5
Minutes [vol.]	1977-1984	AFC 94-2

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 4 Annual returns

Dates

1937, 1968-1970, 1972, 1974

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains annual returns for Thamesford Loyal Orange Lodge #625 and Progressive Loyal Orange Lodge #625. Details of new members, lodge assets, and lodge officers are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box
Annual returns	1937, 1968-1970, 1972, 1974	AFC 94-1-1