

# Rebekah Lodge # 73 records, 1874-1979

**Size:** 3.5 linear feet, 9 boxes

**Acquisition:** The collection was donated to SSIRC in 1992 by Carter Nicholson, previous member of the Swedish Olive Lodge in Moline.

**Access:** The collection is open for research and a limited amount of copies can be requested via mail.

**Processor:** David Wise, June 2004

**Control Num:** SSIRC I/O: 53

---

## Historical Sketch

The Rebekah degree became an honorary degree of the Independent order of Odd Fellows in 1851. The organization existed unofficially without the benefits of being a subordinate lodge for seventeen years until they received official standing as a subordinate lodge within the Odd Fellows in 1868. The first national convention of the Rebekah degree was held over two decades later in Columbus, Ohio with 500 people in attendance.

The Rock Island branch of the Rebekah was founded around 1887 (exact year and date is not known). Their main objective was to visit the sick, alleviate suffering, and educate orphans. These objectives were accomplished by providing continuous assistance to several homes for the elderly and children's homes in the area. The Rebekah lodge also assisted many other local groups with special needs and supported medical causes such as the elimination of polio, tuberculosis and cancer. The lodge held bi-monthly meetings, at which time matters such as finances, financial assistance to members, assistance to groups and organizations and various social functions were discussed and decided.

---

## Content Note

The collection contains detailed minutes from meetings held by the lodge 1887 - 1968. The bulk of the correspondence in the collection relates to issues within the Rebekah State Assembly and lodge procedures. The financial records 1933-1964 include bi-annual reports and cash books. The membership records 1880s- include biographical information such as age, occupations, and current addresses. The collection also contains the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order of the Swedish Olive Rebekah Lodge.

---

## **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in the following series:

- I. Minutes from Meetings
  - II. Correspondence
  - III. Financial Reports – Account books
  - IV. Membership and Member Information
- 

## **Folder Inventory**

### **Series 1 - Minutes from Meetings**

#### **Box 1, Items 1-4**

- 1. Meeting Minutes August 19, 1874 – December 28, 1886.
- 2. Meeting Minutes January 10, 1887 – January 29, 1892.
- 3. Meeting Minutes July 22, 1892 – October 13, 1897.
- 4. Meeting Minutes July 13, 1906 – February 28, 1913.

#### **Box 2, Items 1-3**

- 1. Meeting Minutes March 14, 1913 – May 23, 1919.
- 2. Meeting Minutes June 13, 1919 – January 11, 1924.
- 3. Meeting Minutes January 9, 1925 – July, 8, 1932.

#### **Box 3, Items 1-4**

- 1. Meeting Minutes September 9, 1932 – March 23, 1934.
- 2. Meeting Minutes January 26, 1934 – May 13, 1938.
- 3. Meeting Minutes May 25, 1938 – November 11, 1945.
- 4. Meeting Minutes January 5, 1931 – August 12, 1947.

## **Box 4, Items 1-2, and folders 1-2**

1. Meeting Minutes June 1955 – September 1961
  2. Meeting Minutes October 1961 – August 1968
- Folder 1. Endora Rebekah Minutes (draft) 1963 – 1964.  
Folder 2. Annual Reports, 1937, 1947 and 1948.
- 

## **Series II – Correspondence**

### **Box 5, folders 1-13**

1. Correspondence 1910 -1919
  2. Correspondence 1930 -1939
  3. Correspondence 1940 -1949
  4. Correspondence 1950 -1952
  5. Correspondence 1953 -1956
  6. Correspondence 1957-1958
  7. Correspondence 1959
  8. Correspondence 1960
  9. Correspondence 1961
  10. Correspondence 1962
  11. Correspondence 1963
  12. Correspondence 1964
  13. Correspondence 1970-1979
  14. “Thank You” notes
  15. Misc. Correspondence.
- 

## **Series III – Financial Reports – Account books**

### **Box 6, folders 1-6**

1. Annual & Semi – Annual Financial Reports 1936 -1945
  2. Annual & Semi – Annual Financial Reports 1946 -1953
  3. Annual & Semi – Annual Financial Reports 1956 -1964
  4. Treasurer’s Report 1959 – 1964
  5. Account Book, 1933-1942
  6. Misc. receipts
- 

## **Series IV – Membership and Member Information**

**Box 7, folders 1-11**

1. Membership ledger, n.d. (most likely used at the end of the 1880s – late 1930s)
2. Membership Applications
3. Transfer Certificates
4. Dismissal Certificates
5. Certification of Election of Trustees
6. State of Order Report to Rebekah District Assembly # 10
7. Resolutions of Respect Certificates
8. Dispensation Certificates
9. Programs, annual events 1949-1961
10. Certificates of Deputy Presidents
11. Officers Roll book, 1946-1967

**Box 8, folders 1-8**

1. Ritual Books of the National Women's Relief Corps, 1941, 1953, and 1957.
2. Song sheet "Odes for Rebekah Lodge."
3. Composition Book Eudora Rebekah Lodge # 73 – 75th Anniversary Banquet.
4. Constitution by-laws and rules of order of Swedish Olive Rebekah Lodge# 543, Memorandum Book with notes and lists of names.
5. East Moline #445 Meeting Schedule.
6. Misc. blank forms and certificates
7. Misc. clippings etc.

**Box 9**

Post Cards – Contributions and Dues