



## **Oregon County Masonic Records (R1469)**

**Collection Number:** R1469

**Collection Title:** Oregon County Masonic Records

**Dates:** 1871-2018

**Creator:** Freemasons. Woodside Masonic Lodge No. 387 (Thomasville, Mo.)

**Abstract:** The Oregon County Masonic Records contain materials related to the Masonic lodges and Order of Eastern Star chapters in Thomasville and Alton, Missouri. The Woodside Masonic Lodge No. 387 and the Alton Masonic Lodge No. 255 were the only lodges in Oregon County, Missouri. These materials include meeting minutes, membership lists, financial records, bylaws, photographs, and membership petitions.

**Collection Size:** 3.25 cubic feet  
(58 folders, 10 photographs, 1 panorama)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research, but is stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Oregon County Masonic Records* (R1469); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Garret Kremer-Wright on August 9, 2018 (Accession No. RA1666). An addition was made on James E. Wiley by April 22, 2019 (Accession No. 1673).

**Separated Materials:** Folders 24 and 28 are oversize and stored separately with the Rolla Research Center's oversize materials.

**Processed by:** Processed by Kathleen Seale, October 8, 2019

**Historical Note:**

The Alton Lodge No. 255 began meeting at the Woodside lodge in 2007, members sought dual membership in 2008 before joining with the Woodside Lodge No. 387 in 2009. The Woodside lodge formed in 1871. Founding members of the lodge included Thomas Boyd, James B. Old, J. Posey Woodside, John R. Woodside, David Comins, J.G. Thompson, and others. They petitioned for the creation of the lodge in November 1870, naming the lodge for John R. Woodside. J.R. Woodside, a native of Kentucky, moved to Oregon County, Missouri, in 1845. He served alongside his son, J. Posey Woodside in the Missouri State Guard and 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry during the Civil War, both were wounded and imprisoned during the war. The lodge merged with the West Plains lodge in November 2018.

The Order of the Eastern Star began in Missouri in 1875; it is the largest fraternal organization with both male and female members. The members include men who are Master Masons and women with Masonic relationships. The Mount Zion Chapter No. 229 in Thayer, Missouri, merged with the Alton Chapter No. 209 in January 2003. The Alton chapter then merged with the Thomasville Chapter No. 355 in 2009.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series with seven subseries:

- Order of the Eastern Star
  - Mount Zion Chapter
  - Alton Chapter
  - Thomasville Chapter
- Masonic Records
  - Publications
  - Alton Lodge
  - Woodside Lodge
  - Photographs

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Order of the Eastern Star Records**

This series contains the records for the Mount Zion, Alton, and Thomasville chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star. These materials include membership lists, financial records, meeting minutes, membership petitions, and booklets. The Mount Zion Chapter subseries contains membership and financial records for the group. The Alton Chapter subseries contains the groups records from 1947 until the mid 2000s when they joined the Thomasville Chapter. The Thomasville Chapter subseries contains information on members and guests of the group. This series is organized by chapter and then chronologically.

**Masonic Records**

This series includes official Masonic publications and the records for the Alton and Thomasville Masonic lodges. The materials for the Alton lodge include membership disputes, membership

lists, meeting minutes and correspondences. Of notable interest is folder 23, which contains three Masonic trial procedures from the 1920s for the Alton lodge. One case deals with a Lee Braswell who when denied entry into the Wilderness Lodge for having not lived in Missouri for at least a year went to the Alton lodge and falsely petitioned for membership. Another case dealt with a member who acted with “un-Masonic conduct” when he “unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously” brewed and sold “intoxicating liquor, to-wit- Hootch, Moonshine, and Corn Whiskey [sic].” The third case also dealt with a member who was illegally selling alcohol. The Thomasville lodge records contain meeting minutes, financial records, membership lists, membership petitions, awards, photographs, and memorabilia. This series is organized by lodge and the chronologically.

### Container List:

f. 1-15	Order of the Eastern Star Records
Box 001	f. 1-2 Mount Zion Chapter
	f. 1 Membership roll, 1911, 1920-1999
	f. 2 Treasurer’s book, 2000-2003
	f. 3-11 Alton Chapter
	f. 3 Treasurer’s book, 1947-1999
	f. 4 Members and visitors book, 1955-1961
	f. 5 Secretary’s book, 1964-1978
	f. 6 Guest book, 1969-1980
	f. 7 Guest book, 1979-1986
	f. 8 Secretary’s cash book, 1979-1995
	f. 9 Secretary’s cash book, 1996-2006
	f. 10 Treasurer’s cash book, 1999-2006
	f. 11 Minute’s book, 2004-2006
	f. 12-15 Thomasville Chapter
	f. 12 Petitions, 1903-1977
	f. 13 Booklets and pamphlets, 1965-1990
	f. 14 Guest book, 1970-1982
	f. 15 Guest book, 1984-1985
f. 16-58	Masonic Records
	f. 16-21 Publications
	f. 16 Working tools of leadership, 1986-1987
	f. 17 Booklets, 2000, 2010
	f. 18 <i>Things Masonic</i> , 1993
Box 002	f. 19 <i>Things Masonic II</i> , 1993
	f. 20 Information packet, 2005
	f. 21 “Masonry: A Way of Life,” no date
	f. 22-27 Alton Lodge
	f. 22 Correspondence, 1919-1992
	f. 23 Trial procedures, 1925-1928
	f. 24 Register of visitors and members, 1964-1965
	f. 25 Meeting minutes, 1968-1985
	f. 26 Alton lodge, members, 1988
	f. 27 Newsletters, 1989
	f. 28-57 Woodside Lodge
	f. 28 Meeting minutes ledger, 1871-1916, 1936
	f. 29 Member list, 1871-1924, 2011

	f. 30	Property deed, 1873
	f. 31	Meeting minutes ledger, 1916-1928
	f. 32	Petitions, 1923-2012
	f. 33	Dues ledger, 1924-1932
	f. 34	Meeting minutes ledger, 1948-1958
	f. 35	Meeting minutes ledger, 1958-1976
	f. 36	Visitor's register, 1958-1998
	f. 37	Cash book, 1961-1996
	f. 38	Meeting minutes, 1976-1986
	f. 39	Meeting minutes, 1976-2000
	f. 40	Miscellaneous, 1983-2011
	f. 41	Tressel board and information sheets, 1988-1991
	f. 42	Achievements and awards, 1989-2007
Box 003	f. 43	Officers, visitors, and members register, 1990-1999
	f. 44	Officers, visitors, and members register, 2000-2010
	f. 45	Meeting minutes, 2001-2003
	f. 46	Meeting minutes, 2004-2006
	f. 47	Financial records, 2004-2014
	f. 48	Bylaws, 2005-2007, no date
	f. 49	Treasure's records, 2005-2012
	f. 50	Meeting minutes, 2007-2008
	f. 51	Membership dues, 2007-2018
	f. 52	Meeting minutes, 2009-2012
	f. 53	Correspondence, 2010-2016
	f. 54	Officers, visitors, and members register, 2010-2018
	f. 55	Meeting minutes, 2013-2018
	f. 56	Woodside family, no date
	f. 57	Memorabilia, no date
	f. 58-59	Photographs, 1960s, 2006-2009
	f. 58	Photographs, 1960s, 2006-2009
Panorama	f. 59	122nd Annual Communication, Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Missouri, Scottish Rite Cathedral, St. Louis, 1942

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
Alton (Mo.)	1, 3-11, 22-27	
Braswell, Lee	23	
Freemasons. Alton Lodge No. 255 (Alton, Mo.)	22-27, 39, 46, 50	
Freemasons. Grand Lodge of Missouri	16-58	
Freemasons. Mount Zion Lodge No. 327 (West Plains, Mo.)	46, 50, 55	
Freemasons. Woodside Lodge No. 387 (Thomasville, Mo.)	28-58	
Hand, E.M.	23	
Mount View (Mo.)	3-4	
Order of the Eastern Star	1-15	
Order of the Eastern Star. Alton Chapter No. 209 (Alton, Mo.)	3-11	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Order of the Eastern Star. Mount Zion Chapter No. 229 (Thayer, Mo.)	1-2	
Order of the Eastern Star. Thomasville Chapter No. 355 (Thomasville, Mo.)	12-15	
Osage Pecan Co.	8-10	
Reynolds, Larry	50-52, 58	Yes
Smith, Henry	23	
Thayer (Mo.)	1-2, 6, 8	
Thomasville (Mo.)	6-7, 12-15, 28-58	
West Plains (Mo.)	4, 7, 11, 55	
Wiley, James	50, 58	Yes
Willow Springs (Mo.)	4	
Woodside, J. Posey,	28-29, 56	
Woodside, John R., 1814-1887	28-29, 56	Yes