

FONDS DESCRIPTION (MBMS-58)

Charity Lodge 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons fonds

1878-2014

3 cm of textual records

118 photographs

In June 1874 a group of men in the Mahone Bay area led by Lewis Knaut petitioned the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.) to authorize the establishment of a Masonic lodge in Mahone Bay. Their petition was successful, resulting in the creation of Charity Lodge 69, A.F. & A.M., which held its first meeting at the Star Theatre in Mahone Bay on December 28, 1874. The theatre's owner, Lewis Knaut, was elected the lodge's first Worshipful Master. The lodge would later build a temple on Clairmont Street in Mahone Bay. The murals in the building would be designed by one of the lodge's most prominent members, Canon E. A. Harris. Over the course of the lodge's existence, hundreds of men from the town and the local area--including many clergymen, businessmen, and professionals--would join Charity Lodge 69 and participate in its activities. However, during the early years of the twenty-first century, the Mahone Bay lodge experienced a steady decline in membership, which resulted in serious financial difficulties and ultimately led to the reluctant decision, in 2014, to disband the lodge. A ceremony marking the lodge's closing was held in Mahone Bay on November 19, 2014.

Fonds consists of a registry of Lodge members; miscellaneous Masonic publications and documents; and portraits of more than 100 of the Lodge's members.

Records (Acc. No. 2015-06) were donated by Kevin W. Ernst in 2015, following the closure of the Lodge.

CHARITY LODGE 69, ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASON (MBMS-58) FINDING AID

(2018-19 DHCP BACKLOG PROJECT VOLUMES 3-4, 6)

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3	1	Ceremonies and Meetings	n.d., 2008, 2014
	2	Clippings	1936, 2014
	3	Masonic Publications	n.d., 1878-1961
	4	Portraits of Members – A-B	n.d., 1894-1958
	5	Portraits of Members – C-F	n.d., 1899-2002
	6	Portraits of Members – G-H	n.d., 1877-2004
	7	Portraits of Members – J-L	n.d., 1911-2007
	8	Portraits of Members – M-N	n.d., 1896-1991
4	1	Portraits of Members – R-S	n.d., 1884-1975
	2	Portraits of Members – T-Z	n.d., 1901-2000
6	1	Portraits of Members – Oversize - Ned Harris	n.d.
4	3	Portraits of Members – Oversize – Unidentified	n.d.
6	2	Portraits of Members – Oversize – Zechariah M. Heyson	n.d.
4	4	Registry of Members	1874-2014