
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ANCIENT ORDER OF
FORESTERS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

SRG 238
Series List

The Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society was established in South Australia in 1847. (1)

The Foresters as with other Friendly Societies was set up as a mutual aid group to insure members and families in the case of sickness or death.

The Order was divided into Districts and Courts. The Court receives contributions, pays benefits, controls the sickness fund, invests its capital through its Trustees and manages its own affairs. It is the financial and administrative unit of the Order. (2)

Transactions between the Court and Order are through the medium of a District where one exists. The District controls the funeral fund, and generally supervises the management of its Courts.

Each Court elects a president known as the Chief Ranger and a Sub-Chief Ranger, and a Committee of Management. (3)

Both adult and juvenile Courts were established in South Australia.

For more information on the A.O.F. see P.J. Webb, Friendly Societies in South Australia 1840 - 1892, (Archives Ref: D5188(T)); and series 9 items 5 and 6.

Most of the records in this group were deposited in the Archives on indefinite loan from the Birdwood Mill Museum because of a lack of suitable storage conditions there. The records were donated to the Birdwood Mill by the A.O.F. Series 5, Vols. 5 and 6 were received from The House of Business Machines who found them on the premises. Also received with the records were the minutes of the Walkerville Literary Society and subscription lists for the Duke of Sussex Lodge (G.U.O.O.F.) This volume has now been accessioned as SRG 239.

1. P.J. Webb, Friendly Societies in South Australia. 1840-1892
Hons. B.A. Thesis, Uni. of Adelaide, '19.9. p.33.
 2. Proceedings and rituals of the Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society,
Executive Council A.O.F., Great Britain, 1939, p.1.
 3. ibid.
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Court Foresters' Retreat no. 2479

Minutes of meetings. 1
1855-67, 1872-77, 1885-1912, 1918-61. 16 vols.
[Volume 5 (1885-89) is a rough copy of part of volume 4 (1885-91).]

Cash book. 2
1890-93. 1 vol.

Court Pride of Walkerville no. 14

Minutes of meetings. 3
1885-1906. 2 vols.
[Juvenile Court formed in connection with Court Foresters' Retreat.]

Court Concord no. 2827

Minutes of meetings. 4
1856-65. 2 vols.

Registers of members,. 5
1857-c.1976. Vols. 6.
Vols. 4v. at OUTSIZE 3, Vols. 3,5,6 at: OUTSIZE 1
[These registers give personal data such as trade, residence,
age, marital status and country and date of birth, next of kin.
The amount of such information varies from register to register.]

Register containing propositions, initiations, list of members,
contributors, and cash receipts. 1856-63. 1 vol. 6

Court Concord's Pride no. 5

Minutes of meetings. 7
1940-45. 1 vol.
[Juvenile Court presumably associated with Court Concord.]

Court Young Australia no. 6

Minutes of meetings. 8
1899-1913. 2 vols.

Printed material

1. Ceremony of initiation. n.d. 2 copies 9
2. Proceedings and rituals. 1939.
3. Formularies and lectures. 1923.
4. Formularies and lectures. 1915.
5. Laws for the government of the South Australian Ancient Order
of Foresters Friendly Society. Adel., 1878.
6. By-Laws for the Court Foresters' Retreat, Adel., 1886.