

# Independent Order of Odd Fellows Collection

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## Collection Summary

<b>Identifier:</b>	MA 67
<b>Title:</b>	Independent Order of Odd Fellows Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1998-2002
<b>Extent:</b>	0.21 linear feet (1 document case, half)
<b>Creator:</b>	Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Grand Encampment of South Dakota
<b>Language:</b>	English

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**Access Note:** Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

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## Abstract

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization founded in England in the 18th century and established in the United States in 1819, expanded into the Dakota Territory during the late 19th century as communities formed mutual aid and social organizations. Lodges were organized throughout what later became South Dakota, and the Grand Encampment of South Dakota was established to oversee the encampment branch of the Order, which represented an advanced level of membership and coordinated activities among local encampments across the state.

This collection consists of organizational records documenting the activities and governance of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in South Dakota, particularly the Grand

Encampment. Materials include the constitution and bylaws of the Unified Encampment of South Dakota, proceedings of the Grand Encampment and its Ladies Auxiliary, and proceedings of the Annual Department Council. These records document the administrative structure, ceremonial practices and auxiliary functions of the Order at the state level.

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## **Biography**

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) originated in England during the 18th century as a fraternal organization dedicated to mutual aid and charitable support among its members. The order was established in the United States in 1819 when Thomas Wildey organized the first American lodge in Baltimore, Maryland. The organization promotes the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth and seeks to unite individuals in providing assistance to one another and to their communities.

As the movement expanded across the United States, lodges were established throughout the Dakota Territory and later South Dakota. The Grand Encampment of South Dakota served as the statewide governing body for the encampment branch of the Odd Fellows, which represents an advanced level of membership within the organization. The encampments oversaw ritual work, membership activities, and charitable initiatives, contributing to the broader mission of community service and mutual support.

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## **Scope and Content**

This collection consists of organizational records related to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in South Dakota. Materials include the constitution and by-laws of the Unified Encampment of South Dakota, proceedings from the Grand Encampment and its Ladies Auxiliary, and proceedings of the Annual Department Council. These documents provide insight into the governance, structure, and activities of the Order at the state level, including ceremonial, administrative, and auxiliary functions.

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## **Access Points**

### **Subjects**

- Fraternal organizations

## Names

- Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Grand Encampment of South Dakota

## Places

- South Dakota
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## Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Constitution and by-laws of the Unified Encampment of South Dakota	2002
1	2	Proceeding of the Grand Encampment and Ladies Auxiliary of South Dakota	1998-2002
1	3	Proceedings of the Annual Department Council	2001-2002