

## Information Sheet

**R 962 Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Rolla Lodge No. 416 (Rolla, Mo.).  
Records, 1928-1958.  
Ten volumes and one folder.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are records of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Edgar Springs, later (1936) at Rolla, in Phelps County, Missouri. Included are minute books, membership records, roll of officers, abstracts of semi-annual reports to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, a visitors register, and a letter (30 January 1958) concerning consolidation with the lodge at St. James, Missouri. Until 1948 the chapter was known as Spring Creek Lodge No. 416, after which it became Rolla Lodge No. 416.

Minutes of meetings of the lodge begin on 2 March 1929 and continue through a final entry on 2 May 1958, after which the chapter merged with the lodge at St. James. Highlights include the move from Edgar Springs to the Pythian Castle in Rolla in 1936, the sale of the Edgar Springs lodge building to John Widener in September 1943, establishment of the Triple Link Real Estate Company in 1945 to erect a new lodge hall and cancellation of the project in 1946, the change of name of the lodge from Spring Creek to Rolla in 1947, the erection of a neon sign in 1949, and the unanimous vote on 7 February 1958 to consolidate with the Odd Fellows lodge at St. James.

Membership account books document the initiation, dues, advanced degrees and ranks, and status of each member of the lodge. Some personal information such as age, residence, occupation, and date of death is included. The roll of officers charts the attendance of officers at meetings of the lodge. Among the Spring Creek members were J. G. Case, Donald Castleman, Dr. R. B. Cowan, David E. Cowan, W. C. Dunham, Vernon and Wayne Edmondson, Nathan Henson, Earl Hudgens, Cecil King, Shearl Lorts, James Lanning, John Mace, R. S. Null, Albert and Lynn Paulsell, Lloyd Ramsey, Walter Snelson, Rev. M. E. Sooter, W. B. Stoltz, J. B. Stafford, Melvin, Mila, and Z. E. Watts, and Frank and John Widener.

Semi-Annual Reports to the Grand Lodge, 1929-1958, contain statistics on membership, withdrawals, receipts, disbursements, assets, and past, present, and proposed officers of the lodge. During the period covered by the reports, membership dropped to its lowest number (7 contributing members) in 1936, but climbed to its greatest number (98 members) by 1946. Forty-seven contributing members were counted on the last report in January 1958, but when Rolla Lodge voted in May 1958 to consolidate with the lodge in St. James, only seven members were in attendance.

*r1079*

*9 November 2004*

*Lloyd Wieland*

*Gift*

## Shelf List

These are record books of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Edgar Springs, later (1936) at Rolla, in Phelps County, Missouri. Included are minute books, ledgers, members register, roll of officers, abstracts of semi-annual reports, a visitors register, and letter of 30 January 1958

concerning a merger with the lodge at St. James, Missouri. Until 1948 the chapter was known as Spring Creek Lodge No. 416, after which it became Rolla Lodge No. 416.

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Contents</u>
01	Minute Book, 2 Mar 1929--8 Jun 1939
02	Minute Book, 7 Jul 1939--7 Mar 1947
03	Minute Book, 21 Mar 1947--18 Sep 1953
04	Minute Book, 2 Oct 1953—2 May 1958
05	Membership account ledger, 1928-1950
06	Membership account ledger, 1949-1958
07	Members Register, 1936-1957
08	Roll of Officers, 1929-1955
09	Abstract of Semi-Annual Report, 1929-1958
10	Visitors Register, 1928-1949

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
01	Letter of 30 Jan. 1958 regarding merger with St. James Lodge

*r1079*      *9 November 2004*      *Lloyd Wieland*      *Gift*

### Notes

These are records of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Edgar Springs, later (1936) at Rolla, in Phelps County, Missouri. Included are minute books, membership records, roll of officers, abstracts of semi-annual reports to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, a visitors register, and a letter (30 January 1958) concerning consolidation with the lodge at St. James, Missouri. Until 1948 the chapter was known as Spring Creek Lodge No. 416, after which it became Rolla Lodge No. 416.

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<b>01</b>	<b>Minute Book, 1929-1939</b> (241 pages) 2 Mar 1929 first entry. Officers: Noble Grand Jake Case; Vice Grand W. C. Dunham; Financial Secretary H. I. Brown; Treasurer J. G. Case. 18 Oct 1930 insurance cancelled due to nearby gas tanks at Hamilton's garage. 20 Nov 1936 First meeting of Spring Creek Lodge at Pythian Castle at Rolla. 27 Nov 1936 Meetings to be held at the Knights of Pythias Hall; rent set \$2.00 and meetings to be held weekly on Friday nights. 16 Apr 1937 Chairs from old hall in Edgar Springs to be sold to Gaddy & Son for \$1.00 each. (see also 23 Apr 1937). 30 Jul 1937 Special meeting for conferring degrees. John Widener to meet with the Lodge to see why such high rent increase for hall at Edgar Springs. 6 Aug 1937 J. Widener met to discuss rent at Edgar Springs; Widener accepts to pay rent (\$7.00) per month until further notice. 21 Jan 1938 Lodge votes that if tenant of Edgar Springs hall will buy stock in cooperative electric line yet to be built, Lodge will pay for wiring building. 4 Mar 1938 Lodge received \$3.00 bill for insurance on Edgar Springs hall from Phelps County Fire & Lightning Association.

- 25 Apr 1938 Lodge to meet as a body in recognition to the 119th Anniversary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and confer with Rebekah Lodge.  
7 Oct 1938 Sisters from Rebekah lodges in Salem and St. James met with Lodge No. 416 for conferring of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees.  
19 May 1939 plan to serve ice cream next meeting.  
8 Jun 1939 last entry.

**02 Minute Book, 1939-1947**

- 7 Jul 1939 first entry. Officers: Noble Grand Claud F. Brown; Vice Grand Shearl Lorts; Financial Secretary John A Mooney; Treasurer James W. Black.  
7 Jul 1939 No more meetings until September due to heat.  
17 Nov 1939 Lodge to meet first and third Thursdays  
1 Dec 1939 Shearl Lorts elected Noble Grand; Ralph Marcellus elected Vice Grand  
15 Dec 1939 Bill for wiring IOOF Lodge at Edgar Springs.  
20 Jun 1941 Meetings suspended in summer due to heat  
4 Dec 1941 Earl Jackson elected Noble Grand.  
4 Dec 1942 John L. Marlow elected Noble Grand.  
16 Apr 1943 Lodge bought fourth \$100 defense bond

**Volume**

**Contents**

**02 Minute Book, 1939-1947 (Cont'd)**

- 3 Sep 1943 Proposal to sell Edgar Springs building to John Widener for \$850.  
1 Oct 1943 Building sold to Widener  
3 Dec 1943 Melvin E. Watts elected Noble Grand.  
1 Dec 1944 Lloyd Ramsay elected Noble Grand.  
15 Dec 1944 Paid rent to Knights of Pythias.  
7 Sep 1945 "Triple Link Real Estate Company" discussed as way to build two-story structure with lodge hall above, commercial space below.  
5 Oct 1945 Triple Link incorporated  
7 Dec 1945 Roy Benson elected Noble Grand  
1 Mar 1946 Voted to change name from Spring Creek Lodge No. 416 to Rolla Lodge No. 155 [The name changed but the lodge number ultimately remained the same.]  
21 Jun 1946 Will cash bonds \$1,332 (\$1,800 face value).  
1 Nov 1946 The Lodge owns 1300 shares in Triple Link Real Estate Company. Lodge voted to sell the lot "contracted for" by Triple Link.  
6 Dec 1946 Ken Heavin elected Noble Grand.  
(End of volume: "Record of Defense Bonds owned by the Lodge" 1 bond at \$740, 8 bonds @ \$74 = \$1332 + \$28.30 interest = \$1360.30 as of 1 Aug 1946  
7 Mar 1947 Last meeting in book.

**03 Minute Book, 1947-1953**

- 21 Mar 1947 first entry. Officers: Noble Grand W. M. Heavin; Vice Grand Al Harris; Financial Secretary John A. Mooney; Treasurer John L. Marlow.  
18 Jul 1947 On advice of Brother L.O.H. Erickson, Grand Secretary, the lodge proceeds to change the name of this lodge to Rolla Lodge No. 416.

- 21 Nov 1947 Secretary ordered to have cards sent to notify members of a pie supper 5 Dec 1947 held by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs to benefit the lodge.
- 5 Nov 1948 It was agreed to help Brother Bill Heavins clean up after the loss of his home to fire.
- 18 Dec 1949 Committee to contact the Rebekahs on getting a sign erected at the entrance to the lodge hall. Also to contact the Rebekahs about next pie supper.
- 4 Mar 1949 Reports, 2 bids on neon sign; one bid being \$270 from Springfield Neon Company, second bid was for \$350 from Royal Electric and Sign Service. Sign to read "Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and Knights of Pythias Lodge."
- 18 Mar 1949 Odd Fellows make a motion that a collection be made this night for the purpose of erecting a sign at the entrance of hall and that Rebekahs' be notified that a contribution made their order will be acceptable said collection. This to be turned over to IOOF treasury and any remainder of the amount necessary for the erection of the sign be borne by the IOOF treasury. The collection for sign was \$35 this night.
- 20 May 1949 [Bill in the amount of \$214.54 for Odd Fellows part of installation and purchase price of the sign erected in front of Pythian Castle was presented by E. L. Mooney and some was ordered paid by the lodge].
- 20 Feb 1953 Record Player purchased from Dunlap Electric for \$60 for lodge.
- 18 Sept 1953 Last entry in volume

**Volume**

**Contents**

**04**

**Minute Book, 1953-1958**

- 2 Oct 1953 first entry. Heading reads "Rolla Lodge No. 416"; Jim Shaw, Noble Grand
- 4 Dec 1953 Joe Denny elected Noble Grand.
- 7 May 1954 Moved to place sign on highway.
- 3 Dec 1954 Virgil Sheldon elected Noble Grand.
- 21 Jan 1954 \$156 rent to Knights of Pythias.
- 2 Dec 1955 William Pirtle elected Noble Grand.
- 7 Dec 1956 L. I. Johnston elected Noble Grand.
- 3 May 1957 Lodge to stay on standard time; trouble attaining a quorum.
- 6 Dec 1957 Same officers for next year.
- 20 Dec 1957 Consider consolidation with St. James Lodge, put on hold until word from Grand Master.
- 7 Feb 1958 Seven members present; unanimous vote to consolidate with St. James Lodge.
- 2 May 1958 Last entry.

**05**

**Ledger, 1928-1950**

(185 pages)

Membership account ledger; alphabetical index at front. Each page is devoted to a single member, showing payments of dues, initiation fees, etc. First entry is that of J. G. Case, 1 Mar 1929. Many entries close with "Suspended for Non-Payment Dues" with date; some note date of death of

member. John Widener's account bears the earliest date, 1 Dec 1928; J. B. Stafford's record, 20 Sep 1950, is one of the latest.

- 06**            **Ledger, 1949-1958**  
(156 pages)  
Membership account ledger; alphabetical index at front. Entries headed "Spring Creek Lodge No. 416." Begins 1 Jan 1949; by October 1949, the entries are headed "Rolla Lodge No. 416." Entries include date of admission, sponsor, members of investigating committee, occupation, residence, age, dates of degrees, etc. The information is inconsistently entered. The first entry is that of J. G. Case (died 13 Apr 1949); last entry 1958.
- 07**            **Members Register, 1936-1957**  
(19 pages)  
Membership account register, chronologically ordered. Begins as Spring Creek Lodge, changes to Rolla Lodge No. 416. Entries include date and method of admission, age, occupation, dates of degrees, dates of attaining official ranks; status of membership, death date, and remarks.
- 08**            **Roll of Officers, 1929-1955**  
(21 pages)  
Attendance roll of officers of "Spring Creek Lodge No. 416" for 1929-1948, and "Rolla Lodge No. 416," 1948-1952. Entries include names and ranks of officers for each meeting night, for years 1929, 1930, 1931, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, [1947], 1948, 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1955 (only a single name). "Nights of meeting" and attendance are inconsistent.
- Volume**                            **Contents**
- 09**            **Abstract of Semi-Annual Report, 1929-1958**  
(96 pages)  
Reports to Grand Lodge of Missouri begin "Spring Creek Lodge No. 416" for the term 30 June 1928-1 Jan 1929. Headings maintain the Spring Creek designation through 1949, after which they become Rolla Lodge. Entries include the number of members, the number of those withdrawn, suspended, or expelled, contributing past grands, receipts, disbursements, deaths, officers for next term, and description of lodge building. The last entries are for the term 1 Jan 1957-17 Jan 1958.  
1934 - 11 members  
1935 - 8 members  
1936 - 7 members  
1939 - 65 members  
1946 - 105 members  
1947 - 105 members  
1958 - 55 members
- 10**            **Visitors Register, 1928-1949**  
(13 pages)

Opens with visitors to Spring Creek Lodge, 20 Feb 1928, then skips to 1938. Entries include name, lodge number, and residence of visitors. Last entry 21 Nov 1949.

**Folder**

**Contents**

**01**

**Letter of 30 Jan. 1958**

Letter to the brothers of Rolla Lodge No. 416 for the purpose of voting to consolidate with St. James Lodge

*r1079*

*9 November 2004*

*Lloyd Wieland*

*Gift*

**Index Cards**

Clubs—Missouri—Phelps County.

Edgar Springs (Mo.).

Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Rolla Lodge No. 416 (Rolla, Mo.).

Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Spring Creek Lodge No. 416 (Edgar Springs, Mo.).

Phelps County (Mo.).

Rolla (Mo.).

Societies—Missouri—Phelps County.