These are the records of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 151 in Mount Vernon, Lawrence County, Missouri. The records consist of minutes of meetings, rolls of officers, reports to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, membership records, and miscellaneous papers.

Mount Vernon Lodge No. 151 was organized on 16 August 1865 by a team from the Odd Fellows lodge at Springfield. Eighteen members made application for membership, and another nine transferred their memberships to the new lodge. B. L. Kendrick and H. Waller were elected the first “Noble Grand” and “Vice Grand.” Membership of the lodge grew steadily through the first decade and reached a peak of about fifty members. There was a precipitous drop in membership during the 1880s, and the records show no meetings from February 1885 to June 1890. The lodge was reorganized in 1890 and experienced a strong resurgence in membership during the 1890s. The lodge maintained about sixty members on the rolls through the 1920s, when membership began a steady decline. The lodge seems to have been largely defunct by the end of 1973. Minutes for the last meeting on 13 December 1973 noted only that no quorum was present, and that the balance in the lodge treasury was $2.38. There is a single item in the collection from 1974.

The records of the Mount Vernon Lodge consist generally of minutes of meetings, reports to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, membership records, and miscellaneous papers. The earliest records begin with the organization of the Mount Vernon Lodge in 1865. Combined, the minute books and membership record books cover the period from 1865 to about 1957. The minutes of meetings generally concern the admittance, transfer, and suspensions of members, election of officers, payment of sick benefits, and operation of the lodge hall and Odd Fellows’ Cemetery in Mount Vernon. The minutes are complete through 27 February 1954. There are no subsequent minutes save those for 1973, the final year of the lodge. Reports to the Grand Lodge, 1865-1919, show the relative strength of the lodge for that period. Membership records often contain notes on residence and occupation of members or applicants, progress through the various degrees of membership, and dates of death or transfer.

Folders 1-6 contain various types of certificates pertaining to individual memberships. They are arranged in alphabetical order by surname. Folders 7-10 consist of miscellaneous papers, arranged chronologically. Included are the by-laws of the Mount Vernon Lodge in Folder 7, the last extant minutes (for 1973) in Folder 8, miscellaneous correspondence from the Grand Lodge of Missouri in Folder 9, and miscellaneous receipts and financial papers in Folder 10.
Shelf List

These are the records of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 151 in Mount Vernon, Lawrence County, Missouri. The records consist of minutes of meetings, rolls of officers, reports to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, membership records, and miscellaneous papers.

Volumes 01-11: Minute books, 1865-1954

V. 01: Minutes, “Degree Book A,” 16 Aug 1865—4 Dec 1881
V. 02: Minute book, 30 Sep 1871—13 Oct 1877
V. 03: Minute book, 27 Oct 1877—17 Mar 1892
V. 04: Minute book, 24 Mar 1892—26 Dec 1895
V. 05: Minute book, 2 Jan 1896—9 Jan 1902
V. 06: Minute book, 16 Jan 1902—1 Feb 1906
V. 07: Minute book, 8 Feb 1906—7 Jan 1915
V. 08: Minute book, 14 Jan 1915—1 Nov 1917
V. 09: Minute book, 6 Apr 1922—29 Jan 1930
V. 10: Minute book, 6 Feb 1930—21 Mar 1940

Volumes 12-17: Reports, rolls, and registers, 1865-1957

V. 12: Reports to Grand Lodge, 1865-1897
V. 13: Reports to Grand Lodge, 1899-1919
V. 14: Roll of Members, 1890-1957
V. 15: Roll of Officers, 1891-1910
V. 16: Roll of Officers, 1911-1922
V. 17: Visitors’ Register, 1893-1942

Volumes 18-24: Membership account books, 1865-1944

V. 18: Register, n.d.
V. 19: “Abstract of Initiatory Work and Historical Record,” 1865-1890
V. 20: Membership account book, 1869-1896 (index in front of volume)
V. 21: Membership account book, 1871-1901
V. 22: Membership account book, 1901-1909
V. 23: Individual record ledger, 1895-1944 (index in front of volume)
V. 24: “Questions and Answers,” 1896-1943 (fragment)

Folders 1-6: Membership papers and certificates, 1874-1954 (alphabetically by surname)

F. 01: Petitions for initiation, n.d.
F. 02: Applications for membership, 1909-1954
F. 03: Certificates of dues paid, ca. 1912-1948
F. 04: Certificates of withdrawal, 1874-1921
F. 05: Certificates of transfer, 1908-1947
F. 06: Certificates of visitors, 1892-1899

Folders 7-10: Miscellaneous correspondence and papers, 1890-1974

F. 07: By-laws, rules of order, cemetery regulations, 1895-1945
F. 08: Correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1908-1974

F. 09: Correspondence and papers from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, ca. 1896-1928
F. 10: Checks, bills, receipts, and miscellaneous financial papers, 1890-1957

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