

Vaughan Lodge Fonds Freemasons

- TITLE:** Vaughan Lodge Fonds Freemasons
- DATES:** 1852-1990.
- EXTENT:** 50 cm of textual records
26 photographs : col. ; 15 x 10 cm
7 three-dimensional artifacts
- BIO & ADMIN HIST:** The Vaughan Lodge of the Masonic Order was formed in 1854 in Nobleville (later Maple). The First Charter was presented by Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1854 (No. 236), as Provincial Lodge had denied petition for a warrant on the basis of the fact that the proposed Lodge would have been too close to the Richmond Hill Lodge (formed in 1845). In 1856, the Vaughan Lodge received a new warrant from the Provincial Lodge. The first Worshipful Master was James Woods. At this time (1850's), membership entailed a 5 pound sterling initiation fee, with the annual dues amounting to one shilling, 3 pence. In 1866 the two-storey Masonic Hall was built as a permanent site for the Lodge. The building and property were sold in 1989 and the Vaughan Lodge came to share accommodations with the Robertson Lodge in its hall in King City. During its early history, the Vaughan Lodge was also notable for the considerable portion of its membership originating from the hamlet of Patterson, a company town specializing in the manufacture of agricultural equipment 2 km east of Maple. From 1868 to 1876, at least 25 members of the Patterson community joined the Lodge, with a large number of these assuming leadership roles.
- SCOPE & CONTENT:** The fonds consists of a number of textual records that elucidate upon the activities of the Vaughan Lodge and its relations with the Vaughan Township community, and other local and higher Masonic authorities. One of the most significant constituents of the fonds is an invoice book. It is a 297 page scrapbook containing early correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Grand Provincial Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Canada, petitions, early by-laws, first auditors reports, Lodge installation notices and invitations, financial documents, lists of members, etc.. A list delineating the specific contents of the invoice book accompanies the latter. Other records include minute books for 1855-1865, 1886-1897,

1927-1946; membership registers, 1889-1906, 1939-1955, 1973-1989; cash books, 1863-1891, 1875-1934; velvet covered Bible with stitching "Vaughan Lodge No. 54 A.F. & A.M." on cover boards; summons' for attendance, 1914-1933, 1939-1986 (include lists of officers and delineate offices, committees, etc.); a typescript by Neil J. McDonald entitled "A History of Vaughan Lodge A.F. & A.M., No. 54, G.R.C., 1934; and a pamphlet under the identical title by the same author, 1990 and sundry material relating to other local lodges. Fonds also includes 26 photo prints taken in 1993 and depicting various artifacts of the lodge: tapestries, banners, furniture, swords, Masonic tools, etc.. Also depicted are certain documents, such as the Lodge Warrant (framed) and the interior of the Vaughan Lodge facility in King Township. There are also a number of three-dimensional artifacts which are the Lodge's symbols of Masonry: 1 Worshipful Master's gavel, 2 Warden's gavels, 1 skerrat, 1 square, 1 compass, and 1 chisel.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of fonds.
ACCESSION NUMBER: M993.23
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives