

Collection #  
SC 3651

**FRANK A. PIERSON  
ODD FELLOWS SPEECH, CA. 1910**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:** 1 folder

**COLLECTION  
DATES:** Circa 1910

**PROVENANCE:** Kim E. Candioglos, Beaverton OR

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:**

**RELATED  
HOLDINGS:** IOOF Lodge No. 629 minute book, BV3221

**ACCESSION  
NUMBER:** 2021.0218

**NOTES:**

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) is a secret fraternal society that evolved in late 18th century England. The first lodge in the U.S. was the Shakespeare Lodge No. 1 in New York City, established 26 December 1806. After the Civil War fraternal societies became extremely popular in the U.S. as a form of mutual aid. With industrialization and urbanization came the “golden age of fraternalism,” in which fraternal societies provided working families with a needed system of support.

The Richland City, Indiana Lodge of the IOOF (No. 577) was organized in January 1880. A lodge building was funded by a stock company controlled by lodge members and erected in 1884. By 1885 the lodge had 58 members.

Frank A. Pierson was born on a farm in Spencer County in 1879. As a young man he became a schoolteacher and then a lawyer. In 1910 he ran for prosecuting attorney of Warrick County but lost. Soon afterwards he and his wife Clara, also a teacher, relocated to Oregon.

Sources:

<http://ancestry.com>

History of Warrick, Spencer, and Perry Counties, Indiana : from the earliest time to the present (Chicago: Goodspeed), 1885, p. 362.

<http://odd-fellows.org/history/wildeys-odd-fellowship/>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of a four-page typed speech delivered by Frank A. Pierson at the Richland City IOOF Lodge. It is undated and typed on the back of Pierson's professional letterhead.

In the speech, Pierson emphasizes the importance of fraternity to society. He describes fraternal societies as composed of middle-class men of good character. The true Odd Fellow, he says, has "honesty of purpose, integrity of life and charity of heart." He goes on to explain the importance of women ("Rebeccas") to fraternal organizations and to human society as a whole.

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Frank A. Pierson speech to Richland City IOOF  
Lodge No. 577, ca. 1910

### CONTAINER

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