

**JUNIOR ORDER OF THE UNITED AMERICAN MECHANICS  
RICHLAND COUNCIL 16  
RECORDS 1896 - 1971**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Richland Council 16, Junior Order of the United American Mechanics records contain minute books, pledge books, records of dues, and additional printed materials. Richland Council 16 was the local (Nashville, Tennessee) chapter of the national organization. Founded in 1853, the Junior Order replaced the former United American Mechanics organization originally founded in 1845. Primarily a fraternal society based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, it also offered benefit life insurance to members. Very little information is available about this organization. The records themselves show a rapid decrease in membership from the late 1940's to 1970. The organization is no longer referenced in current editions of the *Encyclopedia of American Associations*, and it may have either disbanded, changed names, or joined with another organization.

The records were donated to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Michael Ames of Nashville, Tennessee, in 1990 and were filmed on microfilm. There are no restrictions on use of the materials.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Richland Council 16, Junior Order of the United American Mechanics Records are organized alphabetically by document type. The constitution and by-laws in Box 1, Folder 1 and the ritual manual in Box 6 Folder 4 provide basic organization information, and the minute books give a brief record of the meetings and activities, as well as lists of members. The minute books from 1915 to 1923, 1936 to 1939, and 1942 to 1945 are missing, but aside from these three exceptions, the records are complete from 1896 through 1971. The extent of the collection is approximately 3.5 cubic feet.

## CONTAINER LIST

### BOX 1

- Folder 1 - Constitution and By-laws, 1949
- Folder 2 - Financial Report, 1955, 1956
- Folder 3 - Membership Book, 1927 - 1930
- Folder 4 - Membership Dues Book - 1955 - 1969
- Folder 5 - Membership List, Undated
- Folder 6 - Minute Book, 1896 - 1898
- Folder 7 - Minute Book, 1898 - 1901
- Folder 8 - Minute Book, 1901 - 1903

### BOX 2

- Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1903 - 1905
- Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1906 - 1907
- Folder 3 - Minute Book, 1908 - 1909
- Folder 4 - Minute Book, 1909 - 1912

### BOX 3

- Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1912 - 1915
- Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1923 - 1925
- Folder 3 - Minute Book, 1925 - 1928
- Folder 4 - Minute Book, 1928 - 1931

### BOX 4

- Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1939 - 1942
- Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1945 - 1947
- Folder 3 - Minute Book, 1947 - 1949

### BOX 5

- Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1952 - 1955
- Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1955 - 1959
- Folder 3 - Pledge Book, 1903 - 1908
- Folder 4 - Pledge Book, 1908 - 1910
- Folder 5 - Pledge Book, 1919 - 1928

### BOX 6

- Folder 1 - Pledge Book, 1930 - 1934
- Folder 2 - Pledge Book, 1947 - 1971
- Folder 3 - Proceedings Book, 1957
- Folder 4 - Ritual Manual, 1957

### BOX 7

Minute Book, 1931 - 1936 (Oversized)