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### McCune Fraternal Organizations Collection, 1886-1962

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## McCune Fraternal Organizations Collection, MS 290

### The McCune Fraternal Organizations Collection

<b>Collection Number</b>	MS 290
<b>Title</b>	The McCune Fraternal Organizations Collection
<b>Repository</b>	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
<b>Dates</b>	1886-1962
<b>Collection Size</b>	.4 linear feet
<b>Creator</b>	Unknown
<b>Scope and Content</b>	This collection includes forms, notes, by laws, checks, and journals related to the McCune, Kansas Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America fraternal organizations.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	This collection is open for access. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Biographical Note</b>	The Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW) was founded in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 1868 by John Jordan Upchurch as an organization to improve work environments and provide insurance for its members. By 1869, insurance became a main priority of the group as it was usually reserved for businessmen and manufacturers. By 1885, the AOUW was the largest fraternal group in the United States.

The Modern Woodmen of America (MWOA) was named after pioneering woodmen by the founder Joseph Cullen Root. Its initial goal was to assist a family in the event the breadwinner died. The organization was created in 1883 in Lyons, Iowa and has operated from Rock Island, Illinois since 1897. The organization members volunteer to raise and donate money, labor, and resources toward their communities. The AOUW disbanded in 1952 but the MWOA is still in operation. Both organizations had/have a chapter in or around McCune, Kansas.

## **McCune Fraternal Organizations Collection, MS 290**

### **Processing Note**

Collection processed in October 2020

### **Content Description**

This collection is primary sources and includes the following:

#### **Detailed Description of Collection:**

##### **Folders**

AOUW Notices/Letters, 1893-1919

AOUW and MWOA Application, Withdrawal, Clearance, and Final Cards, 1891-1919

AOUW Semi-Annual Reports, 1894-1915

AOUW and MWOA By Laws, 1895-1915

Odes and Music

MWOA Checks and Bills for Harry's Café, 1895-1954

Journals – Kansas Workmen, 1897-1904, Clerk's Bulletin, 1904

Miscellaneous

##### **Items**

Annual Sessions – 1886-1903

AOUW Anchors