Anti-Horse Thief Association Collection

Anti-Horse Thief Association Collection. Records, 1892–1902. .25 foot.
Vigilante group. Constitutions (1892–1895); rosters (n.d.); minutes (1895–1902); and proceedings (1895–1901) of Chapter 35 of the Anti-Horse Thief Association located in Fairview, Oklahoma Territory.

Anti-Horse Thief Association No. 35, of Fairview, Indian Territory
Box A-19
1. Application for membership in the A.H.T.A. by Harve Phoebus, October 5, 1901.

2. Financial receipts, Oklahoma Grand Order A.H.T.A. October 20, 1898 to April 6, 1902.
   Printed notice of a special praise service at the Methodist Church, n.d.

3. Post cards addressed to H.A. Bowers, Fairview, Oklahoma, requesting payment of 1st half of capita tax, 1899

4. Eight empty envelopes, marked “memberships, applications, and demits.” October 27, 1897 to January 29, 1900.

5. Circular Letter No. 1, To the Members of All Sub-Orders- A.H.T.A., regarding lodge attendance, organizers, secrecy, taking in new members, and observing the law, 1897.

6. Correspondence from Ike Ferguson, regarding meeting practices, 1898.
   Correspondence from W. F. Fisher regarding the membership of Mr. Doan, 1896.
   Correspondence supporting the application of Charley St. John, n.d.

7. Payment request of Henry A. Bower for stamps and stationery, 1897.
   Typed form letter regarding a meeting of the territorial orders in Enid, Oklahoma Territory, 1899.
   Note regarding the case of U.S. vs. Sidney S. Pridgeon, 1890.
   Correspondence of Otto Charles Listen to H. A. Bower regarding supplies and payment, 1898.
Correspondence of Otto Charles Listen to H. A. Bower regarding receipts, and missing horses, 1898.

Correspondence of Otto Charles Listen to H. A. Bower regarding a receipt, and intrusions in No Man’s Land and Keokuk Falls, 1898.

Correspondence of Otto Charles Listen to H. A. Bowers regarding a payment, 1898.

Correspondence of Otto Charles Listen to C. F. Deem regarding a receipt, A.H.T.A. publications, and the Black List, 1899.


Receipt for dues paid by W. M. Coston, 1897.

13. Correspondence by A. A. Richardson regarding the use of association money to find property of outsiders, 1898.

A short list of members (?) with mention of two brands, n.d.

14. List of members (?) and their P.O. addresses, n.d.

Description of two horses, n.d.

15. Applications for membership by M. H. Gregory and Joshua Clements, 1897 and 1900.


17. Black List of suspected and accused criminals, providing names, cities, and physical descriptions, 1901.

18. Constitution of the State and Subordinate Orders of the Anti-Horse Thief Association, revised. October, 1892.

19. An incomplete version of the constitution of the A.H.T.A.

Two handbooks for members of the A.H.T.A., n.d.


Proceedings of the Thirty-third Annual Session of the National Order, A.H.T.A., held at Parsons, Kansas, 1895.

22. Proceedings of the Third Annual Session of the A.H.T.A., held at Kingfisher, Oklahoma, 1897. (yellow cover)

Proceedings of the Third Annual Session of the A.H.T.A., held at Kingfisher, Oklahoma, 1897. (blue cover)


23. Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Session of the A.H.T.A. held at Enid, Oklahoma, 1899. (2 copies)

Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Session of the A.H.T.A. held at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1900.


National A.H.T.A. of Kansas (ritual for subordinate order?), n.d.


26. Research notes by Dr. Berlin Basil Chapman regarding the association, circa 1954.

Correspondence from the Kansas State Historical Society regarding a collection of A.H.T.A. papers needed by Dr. B. B. Chapman. July 29, 1954.

Correspondence to and from Berlin Basil Chapman with Truman J. Cunningham regarding the archives of the A.H.T.A. at Fairview, Oklahoma. January 6, 1954.

27. Receipt book, Anti-Horse Thief Association of Fairview, Oklahoma Territory, 1901.


   Proceedings of the Third Annual Session of the A.H.T.A. held at Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory, 1897.

30. Photocopy of a certificate awarded to William H. ("Alfalfa Bill") Murray, granting him the title of "Honorary Professor of History" at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college (now Oklahoma State University), 1952.


32. Photocopy of the Black List, which gives names and descriptions of suspected criminals, 1901.

33. One page of handwritten notes regarding the archives of the A.H.T.A. of Fairview, Oklahoma Territory, n.d.
The Anti Horse Thief Association was a vigilance committee, organized at Fort Scott, Kansas, in 1859 to provide protection against marauders thriving on border warfare. It resembled other vigilance societies in organization and methods, although it did not share some of the shadier tactics of other vigilance committees and members of the Regulators.