

Knights of Kaleva

Finding Aid

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FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY**

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Creator: Knights of Kaleva
Dates: 1898-2002
Abstract: Papers of the Knights of Kaleva national organization (*Yli-Maja*) and local lodges (*Majat*) in the United States, Canada, and Finland. The Knights of Kaleva are a Finnish fraternal society formed in 1898 and are extant as of 2007.
Quantity: 27 linear feet (25 boxes) and 43 oversized volumes
Language: Material is mostly in Finnish, with some English.
Acquisition: Collection is on permanent loan from the Knights of Kaleva and came to the archives in May of 2007. Knights of Kaleva organization placed materials here on permanent loan status. The loan status agreement between the Knights and the Archive exists in Archivist's files.
Accession number for the collection is 2007.94.
Access: The collection is open without restriction.
Photographs: Photographs in box 1, 5, 8, and 11.
Copyright: None determined.
Processed by: Kent Randell, July 2007.

Historical Sketch

The **Knights of Kaleva** were founded in Belt, Montana in 1898 by John Stone, a Finnish immigrant from Oulu. The fraternity was formed to help foster fellowship between Finns in America and was dedicated to the nurturing of “Finnishness,” predominantly through the study of the *Kalevala*, the national epic of Finland. The Knights of Kaleva, or *Kalevan Ritariit*, also aimed to improve the socio-economic status of American Finns. Many of its members were a part of the Finnish immigrant middle-class businessmen. The central governing body of the Knights of Kaleva is the Grand Supreme Lodge, or *Yli-Maja*. Soon after the Knights’ founding a corresponding women’s organization, the Ladies of Kaleva, was formed. An organizational publication, *The Kalevainen*, has been published annually or monthly since 1913.

When compared to other Finnish organizations in the United States, the Knights of Kaleva stand out as being neither a temperance, political, or religious organization. Like other American organizations during the 20th Century, the Knights of Kaleva were a secret society - and like the Freemasons - have different “degrees” of membership which are divided into two groups: 1st, 2nd, 3rd degrees and 4th, 5th, and 6th degrees. An English language item in this collection (*see Andrew Brask Correspondence, box 20*) hints that there may have also been 7th, 8th, and 9th degree work.

At the time of this writing, the Knights of Kaleva are still an active organization and their current leadership is moving away from the secret elements of the society. This collection includes many of John Stone’s original writings and correspondence (*see John Stone Writings, box 6 and John Stone Correspondence, box 25*), as well as 6th degree meeting minutes and membership books (*see box 1*).

The Knights of Kaleva collection offers valuable insight and biographical information about Finnish Americans who became business owners and entrepreneurs.

Scope and Content Note

The **Grand Lodge/National Organization** series (5.5 feet, 5 oversized volumes) includes papers from the Grand Supreme Lodge (*Yli-Maja*) of the Knights of Kaleva including minutes from the national organization and 6th degree meetings, rituals, and membership books. Three volumes record the deaths of members spanning 1939 to 1973. There is also a large collection of death notices. The annual reports of individual lodges, *Jäsentilastot*, are preserved from 1941-1962 and 1975 to 1983, containing lists of 3rd degree and 6th degree members. This series also contains the original writings of founder John Stone.

As of 2002, a total of 62 Knights of Kaleva Lodges had been started, though many are no longer in existence. The **Lodge** series (13 feet, 38 oversize volumes) contains items from 44 of these lodges, as well as the Upper Peninsula Kaleva Lodge, the Junior Kalevas of Negaunee, Michigan and a small amount of material from the Ladies of the Kaleva. Much of the material in this series is from the inactive lodges and includes financial ledgers, meeting minutes, and membership books (which often contain birth year and birth place, records of death, and other notes about individuals).

The **Correspondence** series (8.5 feet) consists of letters grouped by lodge and individual. Many of the individuals were former Grand First Brothers and Historians, including Toivo Aartila, Andrew Brask, Matti Erikkila, Lauri Hannula, George Hepola, E. W. Kruka, Ron LaCourt, Adrian Luhtanen, John Mattinen, Werner Nikander, Carl Salminen, Alfons Ukkonen, and founder John Stone. The correspondence file covers much of the 20th Century, including the years 1900-1965 and 1980-1992.

Z-2a, Box 1, Acc. 2007.94.1

Grand Lodge/National Organization

- 6th Degree Materials
 - Applications, 1956; 1962
 - Ledger, 1923-1927
 - [Oversize 1-3] Membership Books, -1980
 - [Oversize 4] Membership Book Index
 - Notes, 1907-1909
 - Minutes, 1908-1916; 1909-1918; 1920-1962
 - Ritual
- 26th Biennial Convention Invitation, 1954
- Art Contest, Helsinki University, 1953 [incl. photographs]
- Astoria / Eveleth Matter, 1955
- Death Benefit Forms, 1940-1977
- Death Notices / Obituaries [2 folders]
- Death Records, 1939-1973 [3 books]
- Ephemera (Blank Forms, Letterhead, Stamp, Hat, etc.)
- Finances, 1902; 1909-1916

Z-2b, Box 2, Acc. 2007.94.2

Grand Lodge/National Organization (continued)

- Finances, 1918-1924 [2 folders]; 1939-1941; 1998-2000
- Finnish Book Concern, 1953-1956
- History
 - Finland Commemorative Stamp, 1967
 - History File, 1907-1959
 - Knights of the Kaleva History* by John Stone
- Inventory of Supplies, 1997
- Kaleva Day Proclamation from Governor of Connecticut, 1969
- Kalevainen Ads, 1987-1993 [2 folders]
- Kaleva Summer Camp, 1940
- Lawsuit: Tapion Lodge No. 10 v. Knights of the Kaleva Grand Lodge, 1935-1938.
- Ledger, 1902-1912; 1907-1917 [2 books];

Z-2c, Box 3, Acc. 2007.94.3

Grand Lodge/National Organization (continued)

- Ledger, 1918-1930 [2 books]; 1920-1925; 1928-1929; 1929
- Ledger Miscellaneous Expenses, 1930-1949
- Lodge Dues Reports and Receipts, 1986-1994 [2 folders]
- Lodge Lists
 - Lodge List (Knights and Ladies), 1922
 - [Oversize 5] Lodge List (Knights and Ladies)
 - Lodge Reports / Jäsensilastot, 1941-1950 [2 folders]

Z-2d, Box 4, Acc. 2007.94.4

Grand Lodge/National Organization (continued)

Lodge Reports / Jäsentilastot, 1950-1954; 1959-1962; 1975-1983

Lodge Reports *Toiminta*, 1946

Loyalty Oaths, 1904-1907

Minutes, 1898; 1898-1903; 1902-1910; 1903 [2 folders]; 1906; 1907; 1910-1912;
1914; 1916; 1917; 1924; 1928-1947**Z-2e, Box 5, Acc. 2007.94.5**

Grand Lodge/National Organization (continued)

Minutes, 1924; 1931-1932; 1937; 1948-1950; 1954, 1958, 1960, 1966-1972;
1961-1968; 1976

Minutes Endorsement Letter, 1937

Minutes Guide for Lodges

Minutes Knights and Ladies of the Kaleva, 1913; 1946

Membership Books, 1898-1935

Membership Forms, 1928

Newsletters, ca. 1902; 1908; 1941-1950 [2 folders]; 1958; 1970

Officer List

Photographs

K. Joensuu, H. Pakkala, A. Kaisankoski

William Laukka [incl. correspondence]

Undated

Publications

Käsikirja, 1902; 1906*Lait* / By-laws

"Tutustuttamis" kokous

Questionnaires, 1946

Raffle Report, 1990

Receipts, 1970-1988 [12 books]; 1988-1992

Rituals

3rd Degree Ritual

Funeral Ritual

Knights of Kaleva

Music

"New Ritual"

Scholarship, 1962

John Stone

1915 Controversy

1925-1928 Controversy

Z-2f, Box 6, Acc. 2007.94.6

Grand Lodge/National Organization (continued)

John Stone (continued)

Biographical Materials

Writings, Notes, Correspondence [4 folders]

Kasin Kirjoitettuja Asteetöitä

Toiminta ja Tilasto, 1948-1956

Voice of America [Finnish Radio Program]

World War II War Effort, Congresspersons and Legation of Finland
Correspondence**Pellervoinen Lodge No. 1 - Belt, Montana and Brooklyn, New York**

By-Laws

Ephemera

[Oversize 6] Membership Book, -1910

Minutes, 1903-1907; 1914-1921; 1916-1951 [3 books]

Z-2g, Box 7, Acc. 2007.94.7Ilmarinen Lodge No. 2 – **Sand Coulee, Montana and Conneaut Harbor, Ohio**

Ephemera (Wall Hanging)

History, 1913 (by John Stone)

[Oversize 7-8] Membership Book, -1910; -1925

Minutes, 1899-1901 [3 books]

[Oversize 9] Minutes 1907-1910

Nyyrikki Lodge No. 3 – Hancock and South Range, Michigan

History, 1914 (by John Stone); 1940

Ledger, 1906-1909; 1931-1970

[Oversize 10] Ledger, 1913-1970

[Oversize 11-12] Membership Books -1930 [2 books]

Minutes, 1899-1914 [5 books]

[Oversize 13-14] Minutes, 1914-1940 [2 books]

Minutes, 1940-1971 [2 books]

Z-2h, Box 8, Acc. 2007.94.8

Nyyrikki Lodge No. 3 (continued)

Photographs [set of 3; set of 2]

Lemminkäinen Lodge No. 4 – Butte, Montana

History, Undated (by John Stone), 1913

[Oversize 15] Membership Book, -1915

Minutes, 1900-1916 [3 books]

[Oversize 16] Minutes, 1917-1925

Kalevainen Lodge No. 5 – Red Lodge, Montana

History, Undated (by John Stone); 1990

Box 8 (continued)**Ahti Lodge No. 6 – Calumet, Michigan**

History, Undated (by John Stone); 1908
[Oversize 17] Membership Book, -1915
Minutes, 1900-1920 [3 books]

Otava Lodge No. 7 – Sparta, Gilbert, and Eveleth, Minnesota

History, Undated (by John Stone); 1942; 1993

Z-2i, Box 9, Acc. 2007.94.9**Wäinö Lodge No. 8 – Ely, Minnesota**

47th Annual Northern Minnesota Finnish Midsummer Festival, 1950
Articles of Incorporation, Minnesota, 1945
Charter Members, 1902
Charter Resignation, 2002
Ephemera
History, 1916 (by Werner Nikander); 1945 (by John Stone); Undated
Ledger, 1924-1931
[Oversize 18-19] Membership Book, -1982 [2 books]
Membership List, 1991
Membership Notes, 1910
[Oversize 20] Minutes, 1902
Minutes, 1902-1929 [6 books]
[Oversize 21] Minutes 1923-1924

Z-2j, Box 10, Acc. 2007.94.10

Wäinö Lodge No. 8 (continued)
Minutes, 1929-1962 [6 books, 4 folders]

Z-2k, Box 11, Acc. 2007.94.11

Wäinö Lodge No. 8 (continued)
Minutes, 1963-1964 [2 folders]
Minutes, 1986-2002
Photograph, 17 initiates, undated
Receipts, 1992-1999
Sampo 1948-1951 and Other Writings.

Tiera Lodge No. 9 – Diamondville, Wyoming

History, 1937; 1946; 1960

Tapio Lodge No. 10 – Rock Springs, Wyoming and Kettle River, Minnesota

Minutes, 1906-1909
[Oversize 22] Membership Book, -1923

Box 11 (continued)**Osmo Lodge No. 11 – Ironwood, Michigan**

Membership Lists
Minutes, 1933-1943 [3 books]; 1949-1951
Minutes, 1957-1976

Ukko Lodge No. 12 – Nashwauk, Minnesota

Archives Endorsement Letter
Ephemera
[Oversize 23] Ledger 1908-1953
Membership Book, 1942-1978; 1966-1967
Membership Book, Attendance, 1919-1948 [2 books]
Membership Notes
[Oversize 24] Minutes, 1905-1933

Z-21, Box 12, Acc. 2007.94.12**Vipunen Lodge No. 13 – Crystal Falls, Michigan**

Membership Book, 1906-1916
[Oversize 25] Membership Book, -1920
Minutes, 1906-1917 [2 books]

Sotka Lodge No. 15 – Hancock, Michigan

Kaleva Brothers & Sisters Leaflet
Minutes, 1952-1954

Vuorelainen Lodge No. 16 – Hanna, Wyoming and Quincy, Massachusetts

Minutes, 1907-1916 [2 books]

Virokannas Lodge No. 17 – Painesdale, Michigan and Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Ledger, 1907-1918
[Oversize 26] Membership Book, -1955
Membership Lists, 1908; 1909; 1917
[Oversize 27] Minutes, 1910-1923
Minutes, 1942-1968 [2 books and 1 folder]

Taatto Lodge No. 18 – Ishpeming, Michigan

History

Vuoksi Lodge No. 19 – Duluth, Minnesota

Alex Kyyhkynen Obituaries
History, 1967; 1969

Kalervoinen Lodge No. 20 – Carbonado, Washington

History (by John Stone), 1913

Box 12 (continued)

Länteläinen Lodge No. 21 – **Fort Bragg, California**

Relinquishment of Death Benefit, Alex Walemaa, 1953

Virkkunen Lodge No. 22 – **Fairport Harbor, Ohio**

History, 1907-1970

Vepsä Lodge No. 23 – **De Kalb, Illinois**

History, 1908; 1909

Ledger, 1935-1947

Minutes, 1908-1910

Z-2m, Box 13, Acc. 2007.94.13

Vepsä Lodge No. 23 (continued)

[Oversize 28] Ledger, 1909-1935

[Oversize 29] Membership Book, 1908-1929

Minutes, 1910-1948; 1926-1944; 1936-1971 [2 books]

[Oversize 30-31] Minutes, 1911-1936 [2 books]

Pohjolainen Lodge No. 25 – **Soudan and Virginia, Minnesota**

6-degree Candidates, 1921, 1949-1950

About The Knights of Kaleva

History

[Oversize 32] Ledger, 1909-1938

Ledger, 1939-1949

Notice of Non-Payment of Dues, 1962

Minutes, 1908-1951 [6 books]

Receipts, 1949-1952

Sampsa Lodge No. 26 – **Eveleth, Minnesota**

History

Väinämöinen Lodge No. 27 – **Cloquet, Minnesota**

Ephemera

Ledger, 1952-1963

[Oversize 33] Membership Book, 1908-1917

Membership Lists and Membership Cards

Minutes, 1924-1952 [incl. membership list]

Z-2n, Box 14, Acc. 2007.94.14

Väinämöinen Lodge No. 27 (continued)

Minutes, 1952-1964

Box 14 (continued)**Sariola Lodge No. 28 – Monessen, Pennsylvania and Weirton, West Virginia**

Ephemera
History, 1908; 1913; 1922
[Oversize 34] Membership Book, 1908-
Minutes, 1908-1928 [2 books and 1 folder]

Suvantolainen Lodge No. 29 – Waukegan, Illinois

History, 1961

Saarelainen Lodge No. 30 – Mohawk, Michigan

[Oversize 35] Membership Book, -1935
Minutes, 1930-1942

Päivyt Lodge No. 31 – Rockland, Michigan and Youngstown, Ohio

Minutes, 1913-1922

Kaukomieli Lodge No. 32 – Amasa, Michigan

Membership Book, 1947-1953
Minutes, 1909-1954 [4 books]

Ahtolainen Lodge No. 33 – Negaunee, Michigan

History 1909-1939
Tax Valuation and Other Bills, 1930-1935

Lempi Lodge No. 34 – Ashtabula, Ohio

Charter
Ephemera
History, 1923; 1946
[Oversize 36] Ledger, 1911-1936
Ledger, 1961-1976
Membership Book, 1911-1978
[Oversize 37] Membership Book, 1911-1970
Minutes, 1913

Z-2o, Box 15, Acc. 2007.94.15

Lempi Lodge No. 34 (continued)
Minutes, 1911-1948 [4 books]; 1975-1977

Suomalainen Lodge No. 35 – Wakefield, Michigan

Ephemera
History
[Oversize 38] Ledger, 1911-1922
Ledger 1940-1961
Minutes 1911-1917 [3 books]

Z-2p, Box 16, Acc. 2007.94.16

Suomalainen Lodge No. 35 (continued)
Minutes, 1920-1956 [8 books, 1 folder]

Seppo Lodge No. 36 – **Virginia, Minnesota**
[Oversize 39] Ledger, 1912-
[Oversize 40] Membership Book, 1911-1925
Minutes, 1911-1925 [3 books]

Kantele Lodge No. 39 – **Gardner, Massachusetts**
Minutes, 1915-1919

Metsola Lodge No. 43 – **Jersey City, New Jersey and Brooklyn, New York**
History
Ledger, 1916-1926

Z-2q, Box 17, Acc. 2007.94.17

Metsola Lodge No. 43 (continued)
Minutes, 1926-1977 [3 books]

Aura Lodge No. 44 – **Detroit, Michigan**
History, 1917-1952 [incl. membership lists]
Membership List

Heimola Lodge No. 45 – **Cleveland, Ohio**
Minutes, 1917-1923

Saari Lodge No. 47 – **Ladysmith, British Columbia**
Minutes, 1927-1938

Elias Lodge No. 49 – **Alston and Baraga, Michigan**
Minutes, 1933-1959 [2 books]

Etelä Lodge No. 52 – **Lantana, Florida**
Minutes, 1981-1988

Suomi Lodge No. 53 – **Helsinki, Finland**
Establishment of, 1962-1966 [incl. correspondence]
Membership and Degree Applications, 1965-1966

Z-2r, Box 18, Acc. 2007.94.18

Saari Lodge No. 54 – **Long Island, New York**
Ledger, 1962-1987 [2 books]
[Oversize 41-42] Membership Book, 1962-1971 [2 books]
Minutes, 1962-1966; 1988-1995;

Box 18 (continued)Koivu Lodge No. 55 – **Ridgefield, Connecticut**

Ledger, 1963-1975
[Oversize 43] Membership Book, 1953-1968
Membership Book, 1963-1973
Membership Lists, 1968; 1972
Minutes, 1963-1978
Rituals

Unidentifiable / Unknown Lodge

Membership Book, 1908-1970
Membership Book, 1908-1991 [2 books]

Junior Kalevas of Negaunee, Michigan

Ephemera, Membership Applications, Due Cards [2 folders]
Minutes, 1935-1940
Rituals

Z-2s, Box 19, Acc. 2007.94.19

Knights and Ladies of the Kaleva
Minutes, 1958-1965

Ladies of the Kaleva

History, 1977-1986
Publications (Rituals & By-Laws) [3 items]
De Kalb Tupa/Lodge Minutes, 1922-1953

Upper Peninsula Kaleva Lodge/Pirtti

By-Laws

Correspondence

Grand Lodge
1940-1941
1942-1946
Miscellaneous
No. 2, 1903-1910
No. 10, 1904-1910
No. 12
No. 21, 1952-1954
No. 27, 1937-1961
No. 40, 1924-1926 [2 folders]

Z-2t, Box 20, Acc. 2007.94.20

Correspondence (continued)

Eetu Aaltio, 1916

Toivo Aartila

1925-1928

1927-1928

Aimo Ahola, 1960-1964 [3 folders]

Andrew Brask

1945-1955 [3 folders]

1960-1966 [3 folders] [folder 1 includes a letter regarding the existence of 7th,
8th, and 9th Degrees)**Z-2u, Box 21, Acc. 2007.94.21**

Correspondence (continued)

Matti Erkkila

1914-1915

1915

Finland

Consulate General of Finland, 1928

Legation of Finland and Help Finland, 1940-1941

Mikko Halonen, 1909-1910

Lauri Hannula

1946-1948 [2 folders]

1948-1950 [2 folders]

George Hepola

1930's [2 folders]

1939-1941 [2 folders]

Z-2v, Box 22, Acc. 2007.94.22

Correspondence (continued)

George Hepola (continued)

1941-1944

1942-1946 [2 folders]

1942-1946 [incl. matters relating to The Ladies of the Kaleva]

1944-1946 [incl. matters relating to War Relief Materials]

1945-1946

John Järvenpää, 1935-1938 [2 folders]

E. W. Kruka

1908-1911 [2 folders]

1908-1912

Z-2w, Box 23, Acc. 2007.94.23

Correspondence (continued)

Ron LaCourt

1986-1990

1990-1992

Box 23 (continued)

Correspondence (continued)

Adrian Luhtanen, 1907-1909
John Mäki 1939-1954 [2 folders]
John Mattinen
1924-1926
1924-1932
1926-1932
Abel Niemi, 1939-1969
Werner Nikander
1907-1910
1910-1911

Z-2x, Box 24, Acc. 2007.94.24

Correspondence (continued)

Werner Nikander (continued)
1911 [2 folders]
1917 [3 folders]
John Salmen, 1911-1917
Carl Salminen
1910-1912
1912-1914
1914-1916

Z-2y, Box 25, Acc. 2007.94.25

Correspondence (continued)

Matti Simpanen, 1918-1919 [2 folders]
Soo, Ontario, Canada, establishment of lodge there, 1953-1954
John Stone
File #1, 1927-1945 [incl. index]
File #2, 1908-1939 [incl. index]
File #3, 1913-1925 [incl. index]
1902-1925
1907-1911
1913-1925
1914-1943 [incl. material relating to the Ladies of the Kaleva]
1916-1918
Suomen Nuorisolitto, 1953
Alfons Ukkonen, 1980-1984
Miscellaneous