

Temperance Lodge - 75th Anniversary Speech

Author: Unknown

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Source: Mr. and Mrs. Collins F. Kindred collection

Brethren at this time I want to take a few minutes of your time to state a few of the facts leading up to the first meeting of this lodge and carrying thru to our present anniversary which is the 75th.

Due to the fact that the names and places that I will mention, being of a strange nature to the visiting brethren it may seem a trifle boring, but if you will be kind enuf [sic] to bear with us a few minutes we will soon be thru, at least I will assure that it won't be boresome [sic].

As you know the home of Temperance Lodge is in Smithville, Mo. but what you probably didn't know is that Smithville is one of a handfull [sic] of towns that was in Northwest Mo. in 1822. Smithville is older than K.C. & St. Joe and the only reason that Smithville is smaller than these places is because we had so many undesirable citizens that we made move south across the river or go up north on the bend.

While we are on this subject let me show you how a WM of one of the K.C. lodges refers to Smithville, while we were at the Grand Lodge in St. Louis a few weeks past he would go up to the newsboys on the corner and say, "give me a Smithville paper" Naturally, the newsboy was lost, and this WM would then say, "What no Smithville paper, K.C. is 18 miles South of it."

We are 75 years old according to our present charter, but Masonry in Smithville dates back before 1872 when this lodge first met. According to Uncle Frank Krauss and Bro. Robert Paterson it goes back before the Civil War. How many years I was unable to find out but the first lodge was held in a two-story log house located on east main st. [sic] where the Uncle Jim Brooks house is now located. On the first floor of this house was the Smithville public school and on the second floor the Masonic lodge. The Civil war caused the closing of this lodge and no records are in our possession.

About 76 years ago a new story bldg. was finished one block south of us and across the street and on Feb. 22 1872 (a great Bro. Masons birthday anniversary) District Deputy Master Elias Parrott at 6 PM opened Temperance Lodge for our first communication and appointed the following officers –

J.M. Darnall, WM
W.H. Paterson, SW
W.C. Young, JW
John Penney, Tres
R.W. Fleming, Sec.
G.W. Sexton, S. Deacon
E.W. Jenkins, J. Deacon
Thos. Osborn, Tyler

Others present were Goldman Stewart, Wm. Moore, Henry Mann, Aurelius Owens

Nearly all of these members belonged to (A-k-sha) Acacia Lodge at Gosneyville (now Paradise) Mo. 6 miles north east of here or to the Zerubbabel lodge south of Ridgely in the country or 6 miles north west of here, both of these lodges disbanded soon after and some of members dimmited [sic] to this lodge.

First to be initiated was J.F. DeBerry on April 6, 1872. Second Petition presented caused the Lodge to write to the Grand Master for his opinion as the petitioner was subject to epileptic convulsions, the reply from the Grand Master requiring the lodge to give Masonery [sic] the benefit of any doubts in regards to the qualifications of candidates for our mysteries. The committee then reported unfavorable, ballot was spread and appearing Foul petition was declared duly rejected.

On June 1, 1872 we had our first visitors, William N. Hooker, Liberty L. #3 and Aurelius Owens, New Market, please remember that this was in the horse and buggy days.

On June 8th. 1872 we conducted our first Masonic funeral services for Bro. Isaac Woods and Uncle Frank Krauss informs me that he attended these services and was 16 years old.

Another interesting entry in the minutes was in regards to a report to the Grand Lodge as follows-

Dear Brethren,

You will observe 3 leaves cut out of the journal, which I also enclose to you, the reason for the same is obvious. Our secretary being a young mason made so many mistakes that the rewriting was deemed necessary. I hope therefore that the imperfections may be passed over for the present and a charter granted us.

Fraternally and Truly Yours
J.M. Darnall, WM

Our Grand Lodge Charter was granted Oct. 17, 1872

First meeting nites [sic] were 1st & 3rd Saturdays

Later changed 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Changed on March 18, 1905 to our present nites [sic] 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

First Grand Lodge Meeting here on Jan. 20, 1905 for the dedication of this our present hall.

On Nov. 13, 1872 the following officers were elected

J.M. Darnall, WM
W.H. Paterson, SW
E.L. Thatche,r JW
J.C. Brasfield, Sec.
John R. Penney, Tres.
John Youtsey, S. Deacon
J.F. DeBerry, J. Deacon
Thomas Osborn, Tyler

Appointed the next meeting nite [sic], James Wood, S. Stewart – William Young, J. S

Masonry in this lodge has not advanced in price because in 1872 the sum of \$30.00 was charged for the three degree and that is our present charge except for the \$1.00 that goes to the Geo. Washington Memorial fund. Dues in 1872 were \$2.00 per year and was increased to \$5.00 in 1905 when the present lodge bldg.[sic] was completed and I might add, "it is all ours with no strings attached."

On March 26, 1873 one of the officers was expelled for unmasonic conduct, that of attending lodge with an alcoholic breath.

On Oct. 1875 another member was expelled and appears in the minutes as follows-To the worshipfull [sic] Master, Wardens and Brethren, I, (Blank) a member of Temperance Lodge #438 do hereby charge Bro. (Blank) of unmasonic conduct – charging that said Bro. did on or about Dec. 25, 1874 engage to marry my daughter and asked my consent, which I granted, he refusing to comply with engagement, thereby abusing my confidence and violating his obligation as a Mason. Signed (Blank)

Witnesses were called and testified that he had told them that he was engaged to said daughter.

Defendant was then called to the stand and stated the following – that he had never asked Bro. (Blank) for his daughter and if there was any engagement between said daughter and himself he did not know it nor consider there was, he further stated (get this) that if it was considered an engagement he was yet willing to comply with it. The ballot was spread as to his guilt and it was found that 17 were for guilty and 3 not guilty. The ballot was then spread as to the punishment to inflict, results – 16 for expelling, 3 not expelling, 1 blank. On Aug. 18, 1877 another members [sic] was expelled for refusing to pay an [sic] to another Bro. who was in business here in town. 12 voted for guilt and expelling, contrary NONE. I mention the following just to show that you had to travel a straight and narrow road if it wanted to be a Mason or if, already one, to stay on.

At the end of our first 5 years we had grown to the great total of 42 members which I think is deserving to be mentioned. We now have a member of 127, another figure that I am proud to mention.

Let me name the early members outside of the ones mentioned at our first election – William Adams, Joseph Duncan, Jacob McDowell, William Thatcher, Daniel Simms, John Spratt, J.D. DeBerry, William Shannon, T.H. Todhunter, W.F. Williamson, John Duck, J.M. Williamson, John Owens, Wiley Johnson, J.W. Duncan, Joseph Hall, G. Misner, G.C. Clardy, G.W. Clardy, Samuel F. Collins, Lewis Wood, W.L. Miller, I.W. Thatcher, Elisha McComas, W.J. Vance, Edgar Spratt, W.S. Kerr, B. Lentz, John Dickens, T.H.C. Brasfield, J.D. Thatcher, Geo. Parker this makes 41 members and I believe the 42nd one deserves more of a mention.

70 years 1 day past or on Nov. 4, 1877 a petition was presented this lodge, on Dec. 1st. 1877 he was initiated, on Dec. 15, 1877 he was passed and on Jan. 5th, 1878 he was raised. This member was a Mason until Dec. 21, 1901 when he was suspended for non-payment of dues, and as I am informed, resulted from being cheated and wronged by another Mason. It is much to my regrets that he isn't in good standing for if he were I would have the honor of presenting you a man 91 years old, mason for 70 yrs. 1 day dating before all but a few here tonite [sic] were born and I refer to S. Frank Krauss who I am indebted to for some of this information.

The lodge was opened at 6 pm and closed mostly from midnight to open. Each candidate was balloted on before advancing to next degree also as to his proficiency in each degree.

At that time only 2 weeks were required between the degrees.

Before we have the high lite [sic] of this meeting I want to call upon a brother who holds the second highest office in the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri. It gives me pleasure to present at this time Deputy Grand Master Bro. Harry Sunderland.

Since we have so many visitors here I will not call on each for a speech but will appreciate some remarks from some of you.

We are happy to have so many visitors here as well as a good attendance from our local lodge, I hope that you will keep the roads leading to Smithville open for more visits.

Now before I introduce the oldest members, I am calling the lodge to refreshments, for the purpose of avoiding any confusion of the members approaching the East, please hold your places after this announcement... you will perform that part of your duty which requires you c t C f l to r t b c o a a t s o t g i t E [sic]

Bro. Harry Weldin 47 years. 4 mo. 19 days

Bro. A.O. Lowman (30 yrs Sec) 47 yrs. 3 mo. 29 days 21 days younger

Bro. R.L. Paterson 43 yrs. father was a member of this lodge 58 yrs. and a mason for a few yrs. longer as he belonged to Zerubbabel, Platte City and Acacia lodges

I believe you are the only living son of a Charter member of this lodge.

Bro. F.B. Rolling 42 yrs.

These are our 40 years members

When I call the next names will you please stand where you are –

Bro. O.P. Yates, you liked [sic] 6 mo. 39 yrs. 6 mo.

Bro. E.B. Iden 38 yrs. 9 mo.

Bro. Sam Lowman 37 yrs. 8 mo.

Bro. C.N. Pilburn 35 yrs.

Bro. W.W. Ball 35

Bro. C.C. Kindred 34

Bro. E.O. Brooks 33

Bro. F.K. Justus 32

Bro. W.M. Brooks 32

Bro. Leon Morton 31

Bro. E.R. Stroeter 28
Bro. Lloyd Taul 28
Bro. A.C. Colley 28
Bro. R.B. Coleman 27
Bro. Landie Barnard 27
Bro. John Rule 27
Bro. John W. Walker 27
Bro. J.C. Williams 27
Bro. S.A. McComas 27
Bro. C.F. Heathman 25
Bro. Chas, Brooks 25

Have I missed any other that have been here 25 yrs. or longer?

Thank you,

W.M. the lodge is now in your hand

[Smithville Historical Society Doc1003]