

MASONIC LODGE WAS FORMED IN BIRMINGHAM WITH 28 ORIGINAL CHARTER MEN

(Continued From Page 9) association whose great aims are the development and cultivation of the moral sentiment, the social principle and the benevolent affections, a higher reverence for God, and a warmer love for man. New laws and regulations adapted to the changed conditions of the institution were then made: an entire revolution in its governmental policy took place; order and system obtained where there had previously existed anarchy and confusion. The great central point of Masonry for the world.

hedge shall be distinguished by the name and style of Birmingham Lodge, Number Forty-Four.

"Given under our hands and the Seal of our Grand Lodge, St. Detroit, Mich., United States of America, this fifth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and in the year of Masonry, five thousand eight hundred and fifty-one."

The following were charter members of Birmingham Lodge No. 44—Joseph K. E. S. John K. Dewey, Hugh McCurdy, Peter Rouse, Beverly Beardslee, James M. Hunt, John Nungent, Alanson Farridge, Harvey Sec. John Walker, Blair Samuel Blair, Ebenezer Martin, Simon Case, Ebenezer Raynald, Peter Cox, Joseph Young, Wm. M. Brown, Scriba Blakeslee, R. P. Merrill, Friend Belding, Geo. W. Merrill, Jos. Parks, Calvin Pinn, Wm. McElip, Norman Gray, Cornelius Brayman, H. J. Johnson.

For a short period after application had been made for a charter Masonic meetings were held in rooms on the second floor of a building that stood on the corner now occupied by the First State Bank but very early in its life our lodge moved to quarters over a store operated by James M. Hunt, father of one of our oldest members, Brother James B. Hunt.

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Where Masons Met During 1852-72



By Rosalind Knox Over in Gray Court which opens into Pierce street there stand two houses about the same shape and size and stuccoed. There is nothing unusual in their appearance and people pass them by without a second glance. But they have a history. Gray Court has not always been their homes in the beginning. They are two rejuvenated patriarchs who first saw the light of day nearly 100 years ago on Woodward avenue when Birmingham was no more than a four corners. As one building they occupied the site where the Birmingham department store now is. The small building was located on the site now used as the local D. U. R. waiting room.

Some time between the years of 1820 and 1830, W. H. Botsford had the building erected, which he occupied as a merchant of general wares. He also acted as a banker for all the farmers of the surrounding country until one day he failed in business and lost all the money that had been loaned him. James B. Hunt was the second owner of the general store. He rented it in turn to Button & Wood, and then to Lyman Peabody.

which binds the whole fraternity into one band of Fellowship which death can never sever and which can never, never die. Tonight more than two million Master Masons in the United States and half a million elsewhere have received the benefits of our grand moral teachings. Birmingham Lodge No. 44 received its charter from the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan, Jan. 9, 1851 and in the year of Masonry 1851 with 28 charter members, two of whom, Hugh McCurdy and Alanson Farridge afterwards became Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan. The early meetings of the lodge were held over a store which stood on the corner of Lovinson's building. In 1872 the lodge was moved to Pierce and W. Maple where it remains until the Temple on Woodward and Forest was bought in 1922. The Blue Lodge now has a membership of 320.

Father Time—So far this craft of builders has not humbled been. But who in gorgeous raiment now draws near?

Master Mason—Three of our brethren who have been advanced to full Honorary degree of Master Masons, have been elected and have presided as Masters in the chair, have been recognized and recognized as Most Excellent Masters, and then were exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Masons. Advance, brothers, and join our company.

Royal Arch Mason—I, too, as a seeker after knowledge and further light in Masonry, was the unshakable arduous work before the Royal Arch Degree, carried my work plumb, received my mark, presided in the chair and set the cope stone. At this point I was joined by these brothers who formed the nucleus of the new degree. Having each headed the command, "Stoop low, brother," he who humbled himself, thought he shall be exalted," at last after many rough roads and bodily tribulations, we were honored with the confidence of the high priest who revealed to us the sublime lesson of the Royal Arch Degree as a new step up to the degree of Doly. "I am one of more than 600,000 members of Masonic Chapters scattered over the whole of this hingham Chapter No. 93 to which we belong was instituted in Jan., 1874, and now has over 200 members.

Father Time—Thus far me thinkers' beautiful virgin that this builders' lodge is maintained by Adam in his Eden have an Eve? And does not this most glorious order permit the most glorious person in all creation to participate?

Master Mason—Wise Father Time, The ladies may claim right. To come to our Liege, right. Since the apron they say is their bearing, Can they subject their will Can they keep their tongues still, And let talking be changed into hearing?

This difficult task Is the least we can ask, To secure us on sundry occasions; Our utmost we'll try To raise lodges for Lady Freedom.

Beautiful Virginia—Dear Father Time, my sisters long ago were recognized for other reasons than the one just given to being barred from the Masonic degrees. Two centuries ago the Masonic women founded the order of the Eastern star and from the lives of illustrious heroines found lessons for our own lives.

Master Mason—Grave Father Time, we know how faithful your and profit by our teachings. Behold these measures of the celestial brightness on our path. Enter a bearing, the Eastern Star.

Father Time—Welcome, radiant Eastern Star, glad harbinger of the day to come, these guests of mine in the story of your presence here. Eastern Star—I am a lineal descendant of that Eve first made of them all. Since Eden left, we twain have never been so far apart. Denial the secrets of the Masonic lodge, at last we made a Chapter of our own in Independence year, great 1876. Since then 51 grand chapters, 8,000 subordinate chapters and 800,000 members carry on our work. Chapter No. 220 was instituted on Dec. 22, 1897 with 14 members with Emma Tibbitts, Worthy Matron, and I. N. Baker, Worthy Patron. Since then our membership has increased

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