

Down Through the Years



Hope Lodge No. 150

F. & A. M.

Hope : Indiana

CENTENNIAL 1853-1953



NEWELL A. LAMB
Grand Master
1953

Hope Lodge No. 150
F. & A. M.

Hope : : Indiana

CENTENNIAL OFFICERS

Hope Lodge No. 150, F. & A. M.
Hope, Indiana

Robert Arthur May.....	Worshipful Master
Harold Vern Dailey.....	Senior Warden
Charles Robert Trotter.....	Junior Warden
Eugene Alexander Norman, P.M.....	Treasurer
George Everett Utterback, P.M.....	Secretary
Leonard Alvin Essex.....	Senior Deacon
Robert William Hern.....	Junior Deacon
Owen Keith Downey, P.M.....	Chaplain
Robert Carmichael Barrett.....	Senior Steward
Marshall Eugene Allman.....	Junior Steward
John Wilcox.....	Tyler

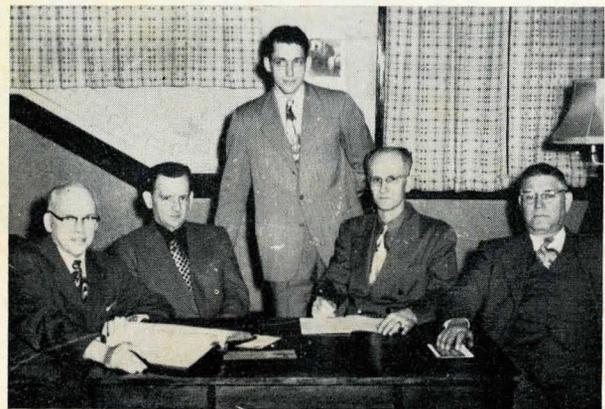
Trustees

Verl R. Clouse, P.M.	Joe Carl Dodd
Leonard Alvin Essex	

Honorary Member, Supreme Council 33°, A.A.S.R.

Arthur Lambert Jackson

Centennial Committee



George Everett Utterback, P.M.	Charles Robert Stafford
Merrill John Clouse, P.M.	Wallace Woodruff Wright, P.M.
	Leon Hege Neligh



THE CENTENNIAL OFFICERS

Left to right, first row: G. E. Utterback, Sec'y; H. V. Dailey, S. W.; R. A. May, W. M.;
 C. R. Trotter, J. W.; E. A. Norman, Treas.
 Second row: R. C. Barrett, S. S.; M. E. Allman, J. S.; O. K. Downey, Chaplain; R. W.
 Hern, J. D.; John Wilcox, Tyler.
 Third row: V. R. Clouse, Tyler; L. A. Essex, S. D. and Tyler; J. C. Dodd, Tyler.



FIRST TEMPLES

The north side of the Town Square as it looked from 1887 to about 1911. The Lodge met in the frame (Rights) building May, 1879—May, 1880; in the two-story at the left (Bittrich) December 1887—February, 1899; and in the two-story at the far right (Aiken) February, 1889—July, 1909.

Down Through the Years

A
History
of

HOPE LODGE No. 150, F. & A. M.
Hope, Indiana



Dispensation Granted
October 27, 1852
Chartered
May 26, 1853



By
George E. Utterback, P.M.
Secretary

DEDICATION

To LEWIS M. BLADES, Past Master, who after almost a century of life still has a just pride in the past, a keen interest in the world of today, hearty handclasp for his friends, and an abiding love for the Fraternity;
and

To ROBERT A. MAY, Worshipful Master, whose youthful enthusiasm, vitality, and ability provide an effective leadership for the present and a rich hope for the future;

This history is jointly dedicated by the author in the spirit of friendship and Brotherly Love.

PREFACE

The author undertook the project of compiling this history in the hope that he might, first, bring together and preserve as many as possible of the circumstances and events related to the origin and growth of Hope Lodge before they completely disappear into the misty haze of receding time; second, provide an historical background for the observance of the Lodge's Centennial in 1952-1953; third, offer a contribution to the historical files of the Grand Lodge of Indiana; and fourth, pay a just and lasting tribute to the men who, down through the years, have founded and maintained the Institution of Freemasonry in the Hope community.

If he has succeeded, even in a small measure, it is due to the fine co-operation of the members and friends of Hope Lodge. Especially is he indebted to the many Lodge Secretaries with whom he has corresponded and from whom he has obtained a great deal of information not only for this history but also for the card file of the Grand Lodge and the membership register of the local Lodge. Both the Lodge and the author also deeply appreciate the assistance of friends and relatives of former members and of members who have joined the Celestial Lodge above.

Much use has been made of the History of Bartholomew County, published in 1888, and of the minutes of the Lodge kept so accurately from 1860 down to the present. Quotations, not otherwise annotated, are from the minutes. The author has received much help, too, from books and photographs loaned by interested persons and others included in the facilities of the Bartholomew County Library. Finally he is grateful for the opportunities he has had to examine the records of the Grand Lodge.

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Organization

It was the autumn of 1852. In Europe, even then, the figure of a dictator was looming on the horizon. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was President and soon to become Emperor of France. In America, Millard Fillmore was the Chief Executive and the country was in the midst of a campaign to elect his successor. Both the Democrats, with the future President, Franklin Pierce, as their candidate, and the Whigs, led by the Mexican War hero, Winfield Scott, were pledged to stand by the Compromise of 1850 in the all-important slavery issue. Only the year before, at Cincinnati, Harriet Beecher Stowe had published "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

In Indiana, Joseph A. Wright occupied the Governor's chair. The new State Constitution was just one year old. Railroads were branching out from Indianapolis and bringing a new prosperity to the farming areas of central Indiana. The first State Fair was held that year. The Bartholomew County Agricultural Society had been organized earlier in the year and held its first County Fair on October 14 at Columbus. Hope was still an unincorporated village, twenty-three years old. It was growing, however, and seven years later, in 1859, the first elections were held and the town incorporated.

Alexander G. Downey was Grand Master of Masons in Indiana in 1852. Most Worshipful Brother Downey, a member of Rising Sun Lodge No. 6, had been appointed by Governor Wright in 1850 as Judge of a Circuit which included Bartholomew as well as Ohio, Switzerland, Jefferson, and Jennings Counties and was later extended to include Brown and Ripley Counties. Judge Downey also had been Grand Master in 1851 and served again in 1855, 1856, 1859, and 1860. He later served in the State Senate and on the Supreme Court of Indiana.

No one knows who suggested the formation of a Lodge in Hope but "a petition signed by H. B. Smalley, S. F. Eaton, James Johnson, J. C. Ardery, A. C. Remy, Moses Remy, Nehemiah Vanskike, and Joseph Utter, was, on the eighteenth day of September, 1852, sent to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for a subordinate Lodge under dispensation to be known by the

name of Hope Lodge. The said petition was heard by the Grand Lodge and a charter issued for a Lodge under dispensation dated the twenty-seventh day of October, 1852. The officers appointed by the Grand Lodge were as follows: H. B. Smalley, Master; S. F. Eaton, Senior Warden; and James Johnson, Junior Warden. The first meeting under dispensation was held November 4, 1852, at which time they adopted a set of By-Laws for their government."¹ The other officers were Joseph C. Ardery, Secretary; T. Moore, Treasurer; Paul Slocum, Senior Deacon; Thomas Vaughn, Junior Deacon, and A. C. Remy, Tyler.²

Five meetings for degree work were held while the Lodge was under dispensation. Work in the Entered Apprentice degree was given on December 2 and in both the Entered Apprentice and the Fellow Craft on December 27. The first man to receive the Master Mason degree was Benjamin Severance, January 24, 1853. Three others, David E. Snider, Henry A. Fetter, and Allen Gallion, were given this degree, March 1, 1853, and one, Edward B. Jurd, March 29, 1853.

At the next Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge a resolution was passed granting a charter to "the Brethren at Hope, Bartholomew County" and directed that the new Lodge be designated as Hope No. 150. The charter is dated May 26, 1853, and signed by Henry Lawrence, Grand Master. Most Worshipful Brother Lawrence was also the first Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Indiana, and at the time of his accidental death in 1862, was serving as Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

The first three officers remained the same as under dispensation but Moses Remy became Secretary; Nehemiah Vanskike, Treasurer; Benjamin Severance, Senior Deacon; David E. Snider, Junior Deacon, and Allen Gallion, Tyler. Three of the officers under dispensation appear only to have assisted in the formation of the Lodge. There is no other reference in the records to Brothers Slocum, Moore and Vaughn. The latter two actually became charter members of Farmers Lodge No. 147 at Norristown. In place of T. Moore, the Bartholomew County History of

¹From a record pasted in the back of the oldest membership register of the Lodge.

²From a special report to the Grand Lodge, made July 4, 1876. See the minutes of the Lodge, Record "C," page 228.

1888 lists J. Moorman as the first Treasurer. If this be true, he was probably Jesse Moorman who also was a charter member (and the first Junior Warden) of Farmers Lodge.

Charter Members

An exhaustive search has been made for information about the thirteen charter members of Hope Lodge. Much of the search was without reward but these few facts have been gleaned from the distant and elusive past:

SMALLEY, Henry B.—He was a charter member and the first Junior Deacon of Milford Lodge No. 94 in 1850. In the Annual Report of Milford Lodge for 1852, he is listed as "P.M." and also as "withdrawn" during that year. He was expelled from Hope Lodge December 5, 1854. In some of the old records the name was spelled "Smawley."

EATON, Shepherd Freeman—He was born at Rockport, Maine, October 3, 1820. He was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 20 at Columbus, Indiana, before the organization of Hope Lodge. He was Worshipful Master for a time in 1853 and in 1854 was Secretary. In the 1850's he had a store in the first frame house ever built in Hope, near the site of the present Temple. During the Civil War he served as Captain of the Home Guards at Hope and later served as Captain in Company I, Sixty-seventh Indiana Regiment. He was suspended from Hope Lodge July 23, 1861, but was restored June 19, 1883, and at the time of his death at Olney, Illinois, on December 9, 1883, he was the only charter member within the membership of the Lodge. He was buried in the Hope Moravian Cemetery with full Masonic Honors. Captain Eaton's wife was a sister of Brother Edward T. Porter.

JOHNSON, James B.—The Bartholomew County History of 1888 lists a James Johnson as a private in Company F, Fourth Regiment in the Mexican War. Hope records do not show what became of him but "J. B. Johnson, a sadler" was received by St. Johns Lodge No. 20 on a demit, April 8, 1866. The latter died February 20, 1868.

ARDERY, Joseph C.—He was raised in Milford Lodge No. 94 during its first year, 1850. County records show that he owned a small farm in the Hartsville neighborhood. One old record indicates that he demitted November 7, 1854, but either this was an error or he was reinstated and no record made because

the Grand Lodge Report for 1855 shows that he was a member at the time of his death, January 9, 1855.³

FETTER, Henry Augustine—He was born about April 30, 1829, probably at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He married Louisa Catherine Reich on December 25, 1848. She was a native of Stokes County North Carolina, and was a sister of William Reich whose grave was the first in the Hope Moravian Cemetery. Brother Fetter demitted December 12, 1853, but he must have maintained some sort of connection because in later years Mrs. Fetter was considered a widow of Hope Lodge. He died and was buried in Cable County, West Virginia, about 1870. His widow died at Hope, March 25, 1907. They were the parents of Mrs. Nettie Fetter Green of Burr Oak, Kansas, and of the late Mrs. Virginia Stanley of Hope, mother-in-law of Brother Edward Noah.

GALLION, Allen—He served as Tyler in 1853. He was expelled May 16, 1854. His name appears in the county records in 1855 as the owner of Lot No. 38 in Old St. Louis. His heirs sold the lot in 1859.

JURD, Edward B.—The County History of 1888 lists "Ed Jurd" as a county settler who originally was from North Carolina and had fought in the War of 1812.

REMY, Allison Clark—He was born October 3, 1827, on the Remy farm near Brookville, Indiana, and was the youngest son of Reverend James and Rebecca Adair Remy. He married Sophia Regina Spaugh at Hope in 1846. Court House records indicate he dealt extensively in Hope real estate in the early years and was responsible for the eighth addition to the town, consisting of twenty-four lots along the east side of Market street, on December 8, 1856. In the 1860's he owned a flour mill and after disposing of this, went to Indianapolis where he built a hotel on the Circle. He was a County Commissioner of Marion County when the present Court House was built in the 1870's. His Indianapolis home was on the northeast corner of Delaware and St. Clair Streets. He died there in 1918 and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis. He was Tyler of Hope Lodge in 1852 and 1862, Senior Deacon in 1854 and from 1857

³There is some indication that Brothers Ardery and Smalley (as well as the Remy) came originally from Franklin County, Indiana. The only other Smalley known to have lived in the Hope area was Dr. John K. Smalley, a Hartsville physician during the latter part of the nineteenth century, who had been born in Franklin County March 24, 1849. The latter's only son bore the unusual name of Allison Clifford. Mrs. Nelle Ardery Murray of Columbus, Indiana, has told the writer that her relatives came from Franklin County. Since Dr. Smalley grew up and first practiced medicine in Decatur County and since Henry Smalley, Joseph Ardery, and A. C. Remy all belonged to Milford Lodge in Decatur, it indicates a common background.

through 1860, Junior Warden in 1855, and Treasurer in 1865. He also served for a short time as acting Worshipful Master in 1854. He demitted January 16, 1871. At the time of his death he was the last surviving charter member of Hope Lodge.³

REMY, Moses Archer—He was born in 1825 (his gravestone says 1826) and was the older brother of Allison C. Remy. He joined the gold rush to California in 1849 but, according to the genealogy of the Remy family, "came back not much better off for the trip." He married Ann Phillips and lived on the old Remy farm near Greensburg, Indiana. He later moved to Hope and eventually to Elizabethtown. He had eight children, seven girls and one boy. He was Secretary of Hope Lodge in 1853, demitted on April 16, 1863, and in 1865 became a charter member and the first Secretary of Elizabethtown Lodge No. 249. An attorney and teamster, he also lived at one time at New Albany. He died in 1913 and was buried in the Springer Cemetery, west of Elizabethtown.

SEVERANCE, Benjamin G.—He was the first man to receive the degrees in Hope Lodge U.D., December 7, and 27, 1852, and January 24, 1853. Later that year he was elected Senior Deacon. He was Worshipful Master in 1854. County records show that at that time he owned property in Old Saint Louis. He was expelled from the Lodge March 28, 1859.

SNIDER, (Snyder), David Emanuel—He was born in North Carolina, May 23, 1825. Just when he came to Hope is not known but he lived in Hope for some years and married Melinda Reich (Reiche). Thus he was a brother-in-law of Henry A. Fetter with whom he took the degrees in Hope Lodge. The family moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where their daughter was born. After ten years they moved to Davies County, Missouri, where they lived at Coffey and Janesport. In later years he lived with his daughter at Alba and Carterville, Missouri. He died at Carterville June 4, 1911, and was buried in the Quaker Cemetery at Purcell, Missouri, with full Masonic Honors. After leaving Hope Brother Snider affiliated with Marshall Lodge No. 108 at Marshalltown, Iowa, and then, in March, 1906, he transferred to Criterion Lodge No. 586 at Alba, Missouri. He was Tyler of Hope Lodge in 1854 and 1855 and fifty-two years later, in 1907, he served in the same office in Criterion Lodge. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Lena McClary Cobb of Denver, Colorado, who pays him tribute in these words, "His was a simple life but he was honored and respected."

UTTER, Joseph—He was born December 3, 1799, in Cler-

mont County, Ohio, and was married to Elizabeth McLefresh on April 25, 1822. They came to Bartholomew County and settled on a Hawcreek Township farm in 1844. He was one of the original trustees of Hartsville University. He died September 1, 1871, but his connection with the Lodge apparently had ceased sometime previously. Larue R. Utter, a present member of the Lodge, is his great-grandson.

VANSKIKE, Nehemiah—He was one of three Vanskikes to belong to the Lodge in the early years. One, David Vanskike, Sr., is known to have lived southwest of Hope and is buried in the Old Saint Louis Cemetery. Nehemiah Vanskike's name appears on the roll of St. Johns Lodge in 1852 when he withdrew to help organize the Lodge at Hope. He was the first Treasurer under the charter and served one year. He demitted from Hope Lodge January 20, 1857, and was received by St. Johns March 12, 1859. He withdrew from there March 12, 1866. There is a portrait of "J. N. Vanskike" in the Mexican War section of the Bartholomew County Directory of 1904 with the notation that he came from Ohio and died in Iowa. According to the County History of 1888, "Capt. Jasper N. Vanskike served with Company L, Fourth Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War." It is highly probable that these all refer to the same man and that he joined a general migration to the West just after the Civil War.

So speak our meager records. Let us not judge too harshly those who were suspended or expelled for theirs was a more puritanical age than ours. At any rate these were "our founding fathers."

Early Meeting Places

The first meeting place of Hope Lodge is unknown nor do we know where the Lodge met during the first six years. The County History records that "in 1859, a building belonging to the Lodge in which its meetings were held was totally destroyed by fire, the records only being saved." However, there is nothing in the records of the County Auditor's office to indicate that the Lodge owned any real estate in those early years and no reference to any such fire in the extant minutes, which date from 1860, or in the reports to the Grand Lodge. It is probable that a typographical error crept into the history and that the statement refers to the fire of 1879 which will be mentioned later.

In the minutes of October 29, 1860, it is recorded that "L. A. Spaugh, agent for Catherine Spaugh, presented a bill for rent of house used for Lodge room for six months and thirteen days, which was accepted and ordered to be paid." This house apparently was occupied by the Lodge as far back as March 1, 1860, since in the minutes of March 26, 1861, we read that "a bill was presented by Dr. (Simeon) Stapp for Hall rent for six months from the thirteenth of September, 1860, to March 13, 1861." The bill was for twenty-four dollars. There is no reference to a move by the Lodge at this time; hence the supposition that the house merely changed ownership. This conclusion is strengthened by the deed record in the abstract which shows that Mrs. Spaugh did own Lot No. 1 from January 22, 1859, to March 31, 1862, when she sold it to Dr. Stapp. The discrepancy in the rental and sales dates could be due to a delay in recording the deed.

An interesting sidelight of possible significance is that Mrs. Spaugh and her husband Samuel Spaugh, who had died in 1858, were the parents-in-law of Allison C. Remy, one of the charter members of the Lodge.⁴ It is conceivable that this house may have been the original meeting place since the lot had been owned at the time the Lodge was organized by Lewis A. Spaugh, brother-in-law of Mr. Remy. Lot No. 1 is located at the corner of Main and Jackson Streets and is now the site of the Helms Pharmacy.

At a meeting on February 18, 1862, "on motion of Bro. Vanskike, Bros. Schmidlapp and Fetter were appointed a committee to procure another Hall." At the next meeting the members of this committee were "instructed to use their own judgment and discretion in renting a Hall but to give a Brother Mason a preference." Apparently this was done and the move consummated about May 1, since, on May 13, 1862, the Secretary recorded that the committee "had rented the Hall in which we are now working, of Brother John A. Miller, for the sum of thirty-six dollars per year, one year for the privilege of longer, rent to commence on the 1st of May, 1862." A bill of fifty cents was later allowed "Brother William L. Fetter for

⁴The Spaughs are buried in the Hawcreek Baptist Cemetery and upon Mrs. Spaugh's stone is the inscription "erected by A. C. Remy." They were also the parents of Florina Spaugh Sidener, grandmother of Past Master Walter B. Trotter and Brothers George A. Spotts and Charles F. Spotts.

moving the property of the Lodge." The exact location of this building is not known.

There was some dissatisfaction with the arrangement and sometime between the meetings on September 9 and November 11 "the Lodge was compelled to seek another Hall and Bro. David Vanskike on his own responsibility rented of Simeon Stapp a Hall for the use of the Lodge." One suspects the disagreement had to do with rent since the arrangement provided for a rental of only twenty-five dollars per year. Dr. Stapp, who was not a Mason, was to "furnish wood necessary to warm the Hall." The Lodge approved the move on November 11 after it had been made earlier in the day. The new Hall apparently was on the second floor of a building erected by Dr. Stapp on Lot No. 1 soon after he acquired the site from the Spaugh family in 1862. In fact, the impending erection of the building may have well been the cause of the move to the Miller property in that year. The Stapp building, a brick affair with a frame section in the rear (probably the original house on the corner), continued to be the home of Hope Masons for six years. It was eventually destroyed by fire on the night of March 22, 1911.

Activities in the Fifties

Meanwhile the Lodge had been growing slowly. From the Secretary's report to the Grand Lodge in 1855 we learn that "Our Lodge has laboured under serious disadvantages the past 2 yrs. but her prospects are now better and we work nothing but good material." The report for 1859 showed twenty Master Masons at the close of that year. Altogether forty-two had come into the Lodge but there were many memberships of short duration. Difficulty of travel and the unlikelihood of getting back caused many men to ask for demits when they changed residence. The first man raised after the granting of the charter was David D. F. Larimore on August 23, 1853. Brother Larimore died September 14, 1859, while serving as Worshipful Master, the only man in the history of the Lodge to die while holding that office. At the time of his death he was also a member of the Board of Town Trustees, having been chosen at the first election of officers in Hope, held June 15, 1859, following the town's incorporation earlier in the year. He is buried in the Hope Moravian Cemetery.

An incident occurred in 1857 which reflects the spirit of the times. John R. Morledge, one of the early merchants of Hartsville, was elected Worshipful Master. Before he could be installed, however, he went to Kansas and his place was taken by the Senior Warden, L. (or S.) Tracy. In September, Brother Tracy also went to Kansas and the Master's Chair was then filled by Isaac Chivington, a Methodist icrcuit rider, who, himself, later went to Kansas.

The departure of the two Brothers for the West was part of a general migration into the newly opened territories of Kansas and Nebraska and a consequent struggle for control between settlers from the free North and the slave-holding South. Brother Morledge had been one of the first trustees of Hartsville College. He had been one of a group who, in 1850, had erected a frame building on the public square in Hartsville and had given it to the United Brethren Church "on condition that an institution of learning should be established and maintained in the village. The terms were accepted . . . and because of the educational facilities offered, and the enterprising spirit of such men as Morledge, the town rapidly grew." Such was the beginning of Hartsville College.

No copy of the original By-Laws of the Lodge is extant but one copy of the second set adopted in 1859 is in the archives. Many of the provisions are standard and the same as they are today but there are a few interesting variations. Dues were payable monthly at the rate of ten cents per month. An additional twenty-five cents was due at each festival (in June and December), for Grand Lodge dues. No member in arrears for three months was permitted to vote or hold office. The membership fee was fifteen dollars. The Lodge required a payment of one dollar per year by all Master Masons "residing within the jurisdiction of this Lodge, and not a member of it or any other Lodge in this State." Apparently it was not uncommon in those days for a Mason to keep a demit in his own possession and thus maintain a non-affiliate status for a long period of time. In 1864, one such Brother, though never a member of Hope Lodge, was suspended by the Lodge for un-Masonic conduct. Under these By-Laws the annual election was held in June but in 1866 the time was changed to December and has so continued down to the present.