

Down Through the Years



Hope Lodge No. 150

F. & A. M.

Hope : Indiana

## The Civil War

The years of the Civil War were critical ones in the life of the Nation and the impact of war was felt by the Lodge in many ways. On April 30, 1861, David Conger of Farmers Lodge No. 147 was selected to represent Hope at the meeting of the Grand Lodge because "our Worshipful Master, Brother George M. Trotter, has left us for a season." Brother Conger, who was the first Worshipful Master of his Lodge, frequently acted either as Master or Secretary of Hope Lodge during this period. Brother Trotter was serving in Company B, Sixth Regiment, the first company to be enlisted from Bartholomew County. The company served a three-month's enlistment, largely in West Virginia, and was discharged in Indianapolis, August 2, 1861. In the following June, Brother Trotter was again elected Worshipful Master. He had presided at only one meeting when President Lincoln issued his third call for troops. The young Master (he was not yet twenty-seven), responded by raising Company H of the Twelfth Regiment and was commissioned Captain on August 16. This regiment fought in Tennessee, was present at the siege of Vicksburg, took part in the Atlanta Campaign, and was with Sherman "from Atlanta to the sea." After the northward march to Richmond and Washington, it was mustered out of service June 8, 1865. Brother Trotter had been promoted to Major on September 17, 1864, and to Lieutenant-Colonel, May 1, 1865. Thus he became the highest ranking army officer ever to belong to Hope Lodge.<sup>5</sup>

No exact record exists as to how many members served in the Union Army. The minutes of December 9, 1862, mention John A. Miller and James A. Davidson as being in the army at that time. On September 1, 1863, the Lodge voted that dues of all soldiers be remitted and that the money of those who had already paid be refunded to

<sup>5</sup>Colonel Trotter's patriotic fervor did not end with the war. His son, George A. Trotter, relates this incident which took place during the Grant campaign for the Presidency when the Trotter family was living near Breckenridge, Mo. "The settlement where the old farm was located had a large number of ex-Confederates adjacent. A flag which had been raised in the Trotter yard was torn down and pieces scattered over the yard and road. Daddy went immediately to Breckenridge to purchase another flag and freely expressed his opinion to the men on the street regarding anyone who would so desecrate a flag. One of the men took exception to the remarks so Daddy patted him in the eye and he went down. Daddy paid his fine and, as he and mother were driving to church the next Sunday, mother suggested that it might be well to explain the affair to the church authorities. "No," Daddy told mother, "I just did my duty—I want no thanks for doing it." Mother, of course, had another reason for suggesting the explanation but, apparently the church people agreed with Daddy as, at the next church election, he was elected deacon, the highest office for a layman in the (Congregational) church."

their families. Accordingly, the Secretary later reported that he had paid \$1.20 to Mrs. Alexander T. Lick and \$1.70 to Mrs. John A. Miller. John P. Hall is also known to have been in service at this time. Probably military service accounts for the unusual procedure when Jesse Bennett Miller petitioned, was elected, and received the first degree on April 26, 1864, and the remaining degrees two days later.

One member and possibly one former member of the Lodge lost their lives in the War. Alexander T. Lick either died or was killed May 1, 1864. His body was returned to Hope and buried in the little cemetery near Old St. Louis on May 6 with Masonic Honors. This is the first record in the minutes of a Masonic funeral held by Hope Lodge. The minutes show that "Philip Barnes (probably Barmes) was allowed fifty cents for taking the corpse of Bro. Lick to St. Louis cemetery." Brother Lick, incidently, had been the notary public who witnessed the sale of the Spaugh property to Dr. Stapp in 1862. He was a brother of Mrs. John Rominger, grandmother of Frank I. Rominger, a Master of the Lodge many years later.

The County History records a David Vanskike of Company H, Twelfth Regiment (the same as Colonel Trotter's), as killed in action August 17, 1864. This could refer to David Vanskike, junior, who had become a member of the Lodge in 1857.

## Plans for a New Hall

As the Lodge began to recover from the uncertainties of the war period, the members began to think in terms of a new and more permanent Hall. On March 3, 1868, a committee was appointed to confer with the Board of School Trustees of Hope with a view to obtaining the privilege of building an additional story to the brick schoolhouse "soon to be erected in the town of Hope." This committee later reported no progress and another was appointed to see L. J. Rominger about the purchase of the upper floor of his storehouse located on the west side of the town square (the present Dalmbert Store). Mr. Rominger's offer was twelve hundred dollars. A motion was made to accept it but action was deferred until another committee had investigated the possibility of buying another building from L. W. Weisner. Late in June this committee pro-

posed an entirely new plan. An arrangement had been made with Mr. James G. Weinland whereby he and the Lodge would act together in erecting a building on the southeast corner of Mr. Weinland's Lot No. 21. The Hall was to be forty-two feet long and twenty-two feet wide, each room being twelve feet high in the clear. Mr. Weinland would own the first floor and the Lodge the second which was to include a Tyler's room and preparation room at the west end of the building. The Lodge would also have a four-foot passageway along the south side of the first floor leading to the stairs at the rear. In September the committee reported that they "had let the building of the Hall to Brother L. W. Weisner he agreeing with said committee and James G. Weinland that he would build the same for the sum of \$1178.00." At the same time the Lodge voted to pay \$400.00 to the Building Committee immediately. A few years later (1875) Brother Weisner built the present Moravian Church.

The records do not show when the building was completed but on November 24 a resolution was passed "that Saturday the 26th of December be set aside for the dedication of our new Masonic Hall same to take place at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, also a public installation of the officers of the Lodge at 2 o'clock of the same day." A committee was appointed to arrange for the dedication and "dinner to be given on the occasion." Tickets must have been sold since the committee's report showed that "\$13.25 was cleared over and above the expenses of the dinner." The officers installed on this occasion were Edward T. Porter, W.M.; Jacob F. Shutt, S.W.; Jesse Bennett Miller, J.W.; Dr. Charles S. Boynton, S.D.; Alfred D. Calhoun, J.D.; James Styers, Treas.; Dr. U. C. Prather, Sec., and L. W. Weisner, Tyler. The first men to be made Master Masons in the new building were the part owner, Mr. Weinland, and Mr. L. L. Levering, on February 2, 1869. The site of this Hall, which was on North Main Street, is now occupied by the residence of Brother Homer Gruhl. Brother Weinland, incidently, was married in 1866 to the step-daughter of Martin Hauser, founder of Hope, in the first wedding in the historic Moravian Chapel. It was a double ceremony and the other couple was Miss Clara Fry, Mr. Hauser's granddaughter and Julius T. Schaub, pioneer Hope photographer.

The final report of the Building Committee showed

that \$813.00 was paid Brother Weisner on contract. The Lodge also paid some of the incidental expenses such as hauling the lumber for the upper story and also fourteen dollars for the material needed in building the stations as a compromise with the builder who did the work as his part since the original agreement was not clear on this point. A subscription was taken from the members for the chandelier and lamps, a supply of wood, and a ledger.

The ownership of property made necessary a few changes in the Lodge organization. Trustees were essential in order to conduct legal business. The first ones elected were Edward T. Porter, John A. Miller, and Thomas B. Yoder. Articles of Association were drawn up and the Lodge incorporated in order that money might be borrowed. And three hundred dollars was borrowed, immediately, at ten per cent interest! One paragraph from the Articles is worthy of quotation. It sets forth that the object of the association shall be: "1. Permanently to establish a place of meeting for a Lodge of Masons; 2. To afford help and assistance to all poor and helpless worthy Masons, their widows and orphans and dispense charity to the needy, and, 3. To defend, protect and uphold Virtue and Truth."

### New By-Laws

A new set of By-Laws had been adopted in 1864. These were revised in 1873 to permit two Stated Meetings per month and to increase the fees for initiation from ten to twenty dollars. At the same time provision was made for the election of two Stewards and a Chaplain. The first Stewards chosen were Peter Fetter and Wesley Robbins and the first Chaplain, David E. McCallie. At this time all officers were elected by vote of the membership.

In 1877 the Lodge again adopted new By-Laws. These were somewhat more detailed, provided a specific order of business for Stated Meetings, reduced the dues to ten cents per month from three dollars per year, provided for the appointment of the Stewards and Chaplain by the Master and of the Deacons and Tyler by the Master and the Senior Warden, and called for a return to one Stated Meeting "on Tuesday on or before the full moon in each month." An amendment was adopted in 1886 providing for an increase in dues to fifteen cents per month since "the treasury was running in arrears about \$50.00 a year."

Grand Lodge dues were still collected separately at fifty cents per year. Collection seems to have been a major difficulty since the minutes contain frequent references to "bringing action against members in arrears three years or more." Another change occurred about 1881 when the Lodge started balloting on candidates only before the Entered Apprentice degree. Previously the vote had been taken before each degree.

In 1887 Hope Lodge was paid a visit by Most Worshipful Brother Bruce Carr, the first time a Grand Master had visited Hope—and the last time until 1952. The occasion, however, was not a happy one—a trial. Such events were somewhat more frequent then than in this modern era.

### Formation of New Lodges

Then as now it was the custom of Masons to maintain an active interest in other Lodges. On at least three occasions Hope Masons played a part in the formation of new Lodges. Elizabethtown Lodge No. 249 was chartered May 31, 1866, and, although Hope Lodge apparently had no direct part in its inception, some Hope men did become charter members there. William E. Herrod became Senior Deacon under dispensation and the first Junior Warden under the charter while Moses Remy became their first Secretary. Thus the latter was a charter member of two Lodges. The first Worshipful Master under the charter at Elizabethtown was Major William T. Strickland who became a member at Hope in later years.

"On August 20, 1866, Brother Cyrus Fultz of Taylorsville Lodge No. 238 (defunct since about 1868) presented a petition asking the Lodge to recommend him and others to the Grand Lodge for a Lodge Under Dispensation to be located in the town of Clifford, Indiana, and on motion, it was resolved that this Lodge recommend them, and that the Worshipful Master, attested by the Secretary, and Seal of the Lodge, is hereby authorized to sign the same, which was done in open Lodge." The new Lodge was instituted May 29, 1867, as Camon Lodge No. 343 and three Hope men demitted to become charter members and officers. Dr. Rufus H. Roope became the first Senior Warden, Joshua H. Norton the first Secretary, and John S. Carter the first Treasurer of Camon Lodge.

A petition was presented to Hope Lodge on January 4, 1876, asking approval for a Lodge at Hartsville. This petition was signed by twenty-five Master Masons including ten Hope members all of whom eventually transferred to the new Lodge. Not all, however, became charter members.<sup>6</sup> Their petition was referred to a committee which made a lengthy report a month later ending with the recommendation that the petition be granted. This was done and in April, 1877, a letter was received from the Secretary of the new Lodge announcing that they were "now working Under Dispensation of the M.W.G.L. of Indiana." Both the original petition and letter are still in the archives of Hope Lodge.

Apparently there had been a change of sentiment in the Hartsville community. Back in 1873 a motion had been made in Hope Lodge by Brother Wesley Robbins to join in a Masonic celebration of some kind at Hartsville. Some of the Brethren objected to having it "on account of the excitement now existing relative to the forming of an anti-secret society at Hartsville." It was voted to appoint a committee "to confer with the Columbus Lodge on the subject." There is no record of any report.

The charter for Hartsville Lodge No. 547 was granted May 22, 1877, and with the exception of N. D. Long, Secretary, all the first officers were former members at Hope. They were John A. Miller, Worshipful Master; Wesley M. Robbins, S.W.; Wm. J. Herron, J.W.; Dr. John M. Tobias, Treas.; A. M. Stewart, J.D.; Jacob H. Miller, S.D., and Banner Davis, Tyler. Major Wm. T. Strickland, then Senior Deacon at Hope, instituted the new Lodge as the representative of the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

One of the most distinguished of this group of Masons was Dr. Tobias. Farmer, stone mason, and druggist, as well as physician, he was a veteran of more than twenty battles and one hundred skirmishes of the Civil War and had been wounded at Missionary Ridge. At the close of the War in the final Grand Review of the Union Army at Washington, the then Lieutenant Tobias had the distinction of commanding the advance infantry division of Sherman's en-

<sup>6</sup>The ten Masons were Dr. John M. Tobias, William J. Herron, Alexander M. Stewart, Jacob H. Miller, William T. Rominger, Banner Davis, David E. McCallie, Thomas F. McCallie, Anderson Jones, and William Hayworth. The other fifteen were Wm. Shadomy, Samuel Hiner, D. C. Benjamin, George Lytle, James Graham, N. D. Long, A. S. Spears, J. W. Fulwider, A. T. Smith, Isaac N. Pulse, L. R. Webb, S. S. Keller, R. M. Askin, Dr. Wm. Hanna, and William Annis. None of the last group ever belonged at Hope.

tire army. He was an unusually scholarly and well-trained physician for his day and ushered many future Hartsville Masons into the world.

### Fire Creates New Problems

The North Main Street Hall built in 1868 continued to be the home of Hope Masonry until it was destroyed by fire on the night of March 21, 1879. As with every group, however, there were problems along the way. In 1870 a sidewalk had been laid in front of the building and in 1872 Brother Mathias B. Collins was allowed a bill for painting "the checkered carpet" and new columns. There was some discussion late in 1873 and again in 1875 about purchasing the lower hall and grounds but nothing came of it since the price asked, \$1500, was more than the Lodge could afford. Quite a furor was raised early in 1877 when Brother James Weinland, who in the meantime had demitted from the Lodge and was living at Clarksburg, Indiana, rented the lower floor to someone for a saloon and billiard parlor. The resolution of protest which the Lodge adopted was vigorously worded but apparently produced no results since the saloon was still there at the time of the fire. At the first meeting in 1879 a committee was again appointed to negotiate the purchase but in March the fire settled the issue. "The Columbus Evening Republican" of March 22, 1879, carried the following article under a Hope heading:

"There was a great excitement here last night about twelve o'clock owing to the alarm of fire caused by the burning of *The Independent* office and a large two-story building adjoining. The fire started in the printing office but soon spread to the large building, both houses and their contents being rapidly consumed by the voracious element. In the upper part of the two-story building was the lodge room of the F.&A.M. The lower room was occupied by a saloon. Loss on printing stock \$1,150—no insurance; loss on lodge room and furniture \$900—insurance for \$600; loss on saloon and furniture \$1,300—insurance for full amount. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the men present and the timely rain, which commenced to pour down as soon almost as the fire started, the flames were prevented from spreading to adjoining buildings. Origin of the fire unknown."

Brother Lewis Dillman was Worshipful Master at the time of the fire.

The Lodge held one meeting at its former quarters in the Stapp Building but because it was the meeting place of another order, the actions of the meeting were nullified under Masonic Law. The Lodge then arranged to meet in "the unoccupied room over the provision store of W. L. Rights." This is the room over the present Jay C Store on the north side of the public square (Lot No. 2) and is the oldest known meeting place of the Lodge still in existence. At the first meeting the Secretary was instructed to have circulars printed asking for assistance in rebuilding the Hall and to send them to the various Lodges over the State. This must have been a common custom since the Lodge files contain a great many such circulars from other Lodges containing all sorts of needs and misfortunes. A copy of the circular follows:

Hope, Ind., April 12th, 1879

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens &  
Brethren of Lodge No.

Dear Brethren:

On the night of Mar. 21st our Hall was destroyed by fire with all its contents, except the records.

There is no building in the Town in which we can meet, and being unable to rebuild within ourselves, we take this method of asking the several Lodges of the State to assist us by making a donation of TWO DOLLARS and as much more as you feel able to give.

By complying with the above request you will confer a great favor on us in our destitute condition and you will ever be remembered in our prayers.

Direct all communications to E. T. Porter, Secretary of Hope Lodge No. 150, of F. & A. Masons, Hope, Ind.

E. T. PORTER, Sec.

LEWIS DILLMAN, W. M.

Forty-one dollars was received from other Lodges in this manner.

The Lodge was anxious to purchase a site and build another Hall. Various locations were considered and for one reason or another rejected. At last in May, 1880, the

Trustees were instructed to rent "the room over the Stapp Drug Store for the term of one year with the privilege of three." Apparently the move was made about the first of June. Rent in Hope seems to have been on the increase since the Lodge agreed to pay sixty dollars per year for the Stapp Hall. Most of the furnishings were purchased but "a lot of chairs were borrowed from the Indiana Horse Thief Detective Association."<sup>7</sup> Brother John Harry Albright, now a member of Mystic Tie Lodge No. 398 of Indianapolis, is the last living person raised in this Hall. Brother Albright, member of a pioneer Hope family, was made a Master Mason on June 14, 1887.

The Lodge used the Stapp Hall for almost eight years. Then in September, 1887, a resolution was unanimously adopted accepting the proposition of Brother Charles Bittrich to rent the second floor "of his new Hall which is now under construction in the town of Hope, Indiana, on the east side of Lot No. 1 to be arranged suitable for a Masonic Lodge and at a price not to exceed \$60.00 per year one year with the privilege of twenty." A contract was drawn up, signed, the Hall completed according to the agreement, and the move made in December. Jacob W. Womack was Worshipful Master at this time and Levi Ketner was the first man to be made a Master Mason in the new Hall. The Masonic emblem can still be seen on the front of this building, the lower part of which houses the I. J. Clouse and Son Locker Plant. Past Master Lewis M. Blades is the only member of the Lodge at the present time who was raised in this Hall.

In 1898 the Lodge appears to have passed through a rather difficult period financially and there was considerable talk of moving. However Brother Bittrich finally agreed to a reduction of the rent from five dollars per month to three dollars. Less than a year later he requested an increase and the Lodge immediately appointed a committee to confer with Captain William H. Aiken for the rental of the second floor Hall located in "the two-story brick on the west half of the east half of Lot No. 4 in the town of Hope, Ind. For the term of five years with privilege of ten years at \$25.00 per year payable quarterly commencing Feb. 1, 1899." This building stood on the

<sup>7</sup>At this time there were two such associations in Hope, organized to combat a very prevalent and serious crime of the time. See the Bartholomew County History of 1888, page 616.

present site of the Hope State Bank. The Lodge moved about February 1. Lewis M. Blades was Worshipful Master at this time and Edward J. Seward was the first to be raised after the move. It is an interesting coincidence that at this time (January 1, 1953), these two men are the only living members of Hope Lodge who hold the Grand Lodge Award of Gold for fifty years of Masonic membership.

## Order of the Eastern Star

Harking back to the '80's, a new experience in Masonic relationships in Hope developed in 1888 when a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized. This project was first suggested in May of the previous year and it had been decided that if the Chapter were organized the Lodge would pay its rent for six months. Brother Jacob W. Womack was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. On July 5, 1887, Brother Womack announced that the dispensation had been obtained but further action was postponed due to the hot weather. The Chapter was actually constituted on November 3 and the charter issued to Mizpah Chapter No. 74 on April 25, 1888. The first officers were Mrs. Mary (D.C.) Hopkins, Worthy Matron; Brother Womack, Worthy Patron; Miss Addie Reed (later Mrs. E. G. Regennes), Associate Matron; Mrs. Kate (D.A.) Robertson, Secretary; Mrs. Sarah (J.C.) Blades, Treasurer; Mrs. Mary J. (J.W.) Womack, Conductress; Mrs. Mary (Dan'l) Pangburne, Associate Conductress; Alfred R. Kluge, Sentinel, and Miss Alice Kluge, Warder. The office of Associate Patron was not created until 1931. The first Star Points of Mizpah Chapter were Adah, Miss Etta Hopkins; Ruth, Mrs. Emma Vinnedge; Esther, Mrs. Mae McCallie; Martha, Mrs. Mary Nading, and Electa, Miss Monta Hopkins. Grand Chapter records show that Brother Thomas Vinnedge was the first Sentinel, although the County History lists Brother Kluge. The By-Laws of Mizpah Chapter also list Mrs. Sarah (Benj.) Trotter as Warder rather than Miss Kluge. This Chapter passed out of existence when the charter was annulled April 23, 1900.

Due in large measure to the efforts of Brother Harmon S. Dixon a second Chapter was organized in 1935. Esther Chapter No. 548 was constituted April 25 of that year with Mrs. Anna (J.O.) Snyder as the first Worthy Matron

and Brother Dixon as the first Worthy Patron. The other officers were Mrs. Anna (Hiriam) Jarrett, Associate Matron; Horace G. Weinland, Associate Patron; Mrs. Margaret (E.W.) Fry, Secretary; Mrs. Nelle (A.W.) Hopkins (now Mrs. J. T. Murray), Treasurer; Mrs. Sadie (J.H.) Cook, Conductress; Mrs. Stella (J.W.) Foust, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Eva (Ferris) Conner, Warder, and Elda J. Clouse, Sentinel. The Star Points were Mrs. Leola (Carl) Hitchcock, Mrs. Anna (W.B.) Trotter, Mrs. Helen (Casper) McNealy, Mrs. Lessie (H.G.) Weinland, and Mrs. Dorothy (C.L.) Patterson (now Mrs. Noble Trotter). Mrs. Lelia (Ira) Reed served as Chaplain and Mrs. Mable (Everett) Clouse as Marshal. The membership has grown from an original thirty to one hundred seventy-five. A special honor came to Esther Chapter in 1948 when Mrs. Lucille (A.C.) Reeves, Secretary and Past Worthy Matron was appointed District Deputy.

### The Present Temple

During the early years of the present century the thoughts of the Hope Brethren turned largely toward plans for the erection of a new Temple. On December 9, 1902, a motion was carried "that the Trustees be authorized to buy real estate if any can be bought suitable for Lodge purposes and at a reasonable price, if not, to loan the money on hand." The actual purchase seems to have been handled entirely by the Trustees since the minutes do not mention it. The Warranty Deed was received for record in the office of the County Recorder March 13, 1903, and conveyed thirty-seven feet off the north side of Lot No. 15 from Henry S. and Laura S. Rominger to the Trustees for eight hundred fifty dollars. This lot is the location of the present Temple and was then occupied by a small frame building. Curiously enough, this was one of the sites rejected when the matter was under discussion in 1887. In August, 1904, the Trustees and the Master, David A. Robertson, were instructed to superintend the construction of a sidewalk in front of the building and to solicit the membership for contributions to defray the expense. In 1907 sixty feet off the west end of the lot was leased to the Hope Hardware Company for a warehouse. On August 11, 1908, a motion was passed that the Lodge "lease their real estate . . . for a term of twenty-five years for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Temple." The Secretary

was then instructed to subscribe for five hundred dollars worth of stock in the new venture.

The Hope Masonic Building Association was officially organized at a meeting held in the Masonic Hall August 25, 1908. Those present, all subscribing stockholders, elected Isaac W. Sawin, president; James R. Davis, vice-president, and Clarence Price, secretary. A second meeting on September 10 resulted in the election of the first Board of Directors as follows: Arthur May, Freeman Harker, Herman S. Miller, Samuel Hitchcock, Lewis Dillman, and Brothers Sawin, Davis, and Price. The following day Articles of Incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State with a capital stock of \$10,000 which was later increased to \$12,000. At a later meeting a Building Committee was appointed composed of Brothers Harker, May, Miller, John Dodd, and Dr. L. D. Reed; a Finance Committee was chosen, made up of Brothers Hitchcock, Davis, and Sawin; and a Code of By-Laws was adopted as recommended by Attorney C. B. Cooper, afterward Mayor of Columbus. Early in 1909 Brother Price resigned as Secretary and was succeeded by J. Otis Snyder; the other officers remained the same for several years. The actual construction was in charge of George S. Cook and Son, contractors, and the building was completed about the first of July. It was first used on July 13 when the Lodge met to confer the Entered Apprentice degree on Edgar Cook. The first man made a Master Mason in the new building was John Klipsch on July 27. Brother Klipsch was the father of Ray H. and Arthur John Klipsch and the brother of Frank Klipsch of the present membership.

The Grand Opening for the new Temple was held January 4, 1910. Seventy-five of the ninety-two members of the Lodge were present on this occasion. More than one hundred twenty-five visiting Brethren were present for the degree work in the afternoon, special trains coming from Columbus and Elizabethtown. St. Johns Lodge No. 20 conferred the Master Mason degree on Edgar Cook and Elizabethtown Lodge No. 249 conferred the same degree on Dr. Benjamin F. Dudding. The latter was the father of Dr. Joseph E. Dudding of the present Lodge. In the evening a banquet was served to about five hundred Masons and their families. J. F. Beck and Judge Marshall Hacker of Columbus and State Senator Wm. Springer of Elizabethtown were the principal speakers. It was a gala oc-



PRESENT TEMPLE OF HOPE LODGE No. 150

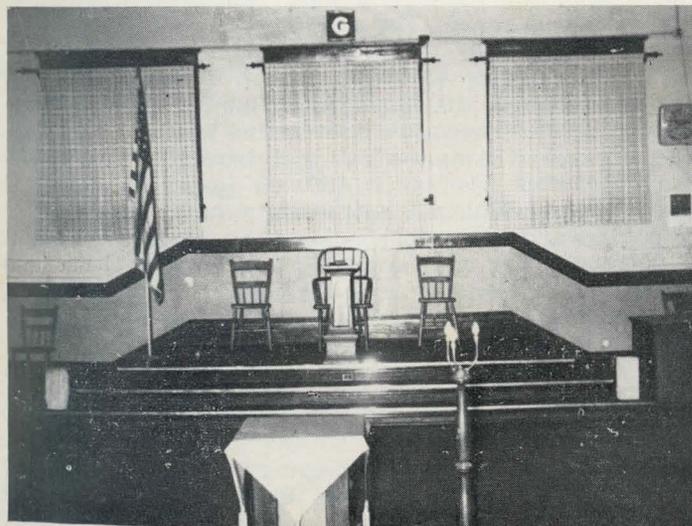


DR. L. D. REED

Dr. Reed's offices were on the second floor of the Temple from its opening in 1909 until his death in 1948.

He was a Hope physician, 1895-1948, and a member of Hope Lodge, 1887-1948.

HALL OF HOPE LODGE



LOOKING TOWARD THE EAST

casion and definitely marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Hope Lodge.

James R. Davis was the first Worshipful Master installed in the new Temple and the dedication was his first meeting after the installation. Brother Davis was also the first tenant of the lower floors of the Temple. He operated a general store on the first floor and used the second for a carpet display room. At various times Brothers Edward B. Miller and J. Otis Snyder were associated with him in business. Brother Davis' daughter recently said of him: "I think the Masonic Lodge gave my father more satisfaction than anything else in life, unless, perhaps, his family." A Masonic friend in Colorado, where he spent his later years, added, "He never missed a meeting and he always had something to give the Lodge." These simple words impress the writer as one of the finest tributes he ever heard paid a Mason. His lovely home, situated among flowers and shrubs in the city of Boulder, was a mecca for students from the University of Colorado seeking to learn the Masonic ritual and he trained scores of them for further service to the Fraternity.

The first floor of the Temple has been used by a number of firms. Currently it is under lease to the Schaefer Implement Company. The second floor was used for a number of years by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1946 it was remodeled and converted into a dining hall and rented to the Hope Lions Club for a Den. At the same time a kitchen was built in the southwest corner. The privilege of using the Hall was retained by the Lodge and the Eastern Star but in 1950 the Lodge assumed full control of the Hall and now rents it on demand to the Lions Club and other organizations. The offices at the front of the second floor were originally rented to Dr. L. D. Reed and Dr. B. F. Dudding. Since the death of the latter in 1926, the north rooms have been occupied by various persons but the south rooms continued to be the offices of Dr. Reed for thirty-nine years, until his death October 16, 1948. All these rooms have since been remodeled into a single apartment.

The exact cost of the building is uncertain. The minutes for a directors meeting of the Building Association on September 14, 1909, contain a secretary's report showing "the total amount expended . . . \$10,012.96." This seems

to have been the total cost, since, at a previous meeting, the Directors had voted to pay "Geo. S. Cook and Son \$2,000.00 as a last installment for constructing the Masonic Temple," and there is no later reference to an additional payment. The Lodge Hall has been redecorated several times, the last in 1946 at a cost of almost one thousand dollars. In 1948 a new recreation room was opened in the original dining hall at the west end of the third floor and in 1949 a beautiful new carpet was laid. In both the redecoration and carpet projects the Lodge and Esther Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star shared both the administrative and financial responsibility. The latter also provided new drapes for the windows.

The Temple continued to be the property of the Building Association through the years but gradually as the original stockholders died or sold their stock, the Lodge kept acquiring a larger share and in 1924 it was deemed advisable to perfect an arrangement whereby the principal officers of the Lodge automatically became the officers of the association. On February 14, 1950, the Lodge authorized the purchase of the last stock outstanding. This was done and steps were immediately taken to transfer the title to the Lodge. It was then discovered that the original lease given to the Building Association had never been officially signed or notarized and the title had actually always been vested in the Lodge.

The Lodge seems to have had a penchant for meeting on historic sites. The northeast corner of Main and Jackson Streets where meetings were being held in 1860 and to which the Lodge returned on several later occasions was the site of the first store building ever erected in Hope. This was a small log house erected by John Hager who soon sold the store to Martin Hauser, the founder of Hope. In 1834 the latter was appointed the first postmaster of the town and the first post office was located in this store.

The Rights Building (the present Jay C. Store), where the Lodge met from May, 1870, to June, 1880, once stood on the north side of Jackson Street about half-way between Harrison and Walnut Streets. It was then the Town Hall and also housed the plant of Hope's first newspaper, "The Watchman," published by a Methodist minister, the Rev. W. H. Ongley, for about twenty months, beginning

in the spring of 1868. Stairs on the outside of the building led to the second floor where a subscription school was taught by a Mr. Bachman and a Miss Leech. The late Lewis Rights attended this school in the middle 1860's. It was later moved to its present location and occupied by the firm of Rominger and Spaugh. It was purchased by W. L. Rights about 1871 and for many years was the site of his grocery. The Rights home, a fine brick residence in typical East Pennsylvania Moravian style, stood just to the west on the site of the first Moravian Church in Hope.<sup>8</sup>

Just north of the present Temple stood the first frame house in Hope. This was built by a Mr. Waterbury in 1836 who used it for a general store. In the 1880's it was occupied by C. L. Reed and Son, grocers, who later had a store on the south side of the square. This building had a covered porch along the front and stood until comparatively recent years. The first brick house in Hope stood just south of the Temple on the site now occupied by the Norman Funeral Home.

### Growth in Membership

For many years the Lodge grew slowly. At the time of the fire in 1879 there were thirty-eight members. Twenty years later at the close of the nineteenth century there were only forty-seven. Apparently the building of the new Temple created a greater interest in Masonry among the young men of the community. At the meeting in 1908 when the decision was made to launch the building project eighteen petitions were presented. Sixteen of these eventually became Master Masons including three future Masters of the Lodge—Rommie K. Ferry, Earl C. Wasson, and Mignon Boaz. The latter was Master six times between 1923 and 1930, the last to have a tenure of more than one year in that office. He was considered an outstanding ritualist and gave the burial service for many of his Masonic Brethren. Six of the sixteen, Brothers Wasson, Walter L. Rominger, Horace G. Weinland, Roscoe Martin, J. Clarence Brown, and Martin Essex, were destined to spend more than forty years as wearers of the Square and Compass. One of this group, Brother Weinland,

<sup>8</sup>This house was originally built by a Mr. Kleckner for a Dr. Jacobson and was bought by Mr. Rights in 1868. In 1928 the author cast his first vote in this house, then occupied by the realty firm of C. J. Utter and Son. The information about the Rights building was supplied by William Rights of Denver, Colorado, son of W. L. Rights.

rendered outstanding service to the Fraternity as Treasurer for seven and one-half years from 1916 through 1923 and as Secretary for nineteen years from 1931 through 1949.

### World Wars I and II

An upsurge in membership was felt in the years surrounding America's participation in World War I especially among the young men who either were about to serve, were serving, or had served in that conflict. The years 1918 and 1919 deserve the appellation, "boom years," as twenty-nine and twenty-two members, respectively, were added. A most unusual situation developed on July 30, 1919, when Arthur L. Jackson received all three degrees the same evening. This has occurred only two other times in the history of Hope Lodge and both of these were before the Civil War. Brother Jackson was on a three-day pass from his duties at the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Illinois. He was given the work under an emergency arrangement on condition that he pass an examination later at the Indiana Square and Compass Club at Great Lakes. This he did for each of the three degrees after instruction by a Brother Rogers from Indianapolis. Brother Jackson who is the founder and head of the Al-Jax Chemical Company at Seymour, Indiana, has been the Scottish Rite Chairman for District Number 9 comprising twenty-five counties. He is the only member of Hope Lodge ever to receive the Thirty-third degree. This honor was bestowed upon him at Philadelphia in September, 1950, and he refers to that event as "the high-light of my life."

One member of the Lodge made the supreme sacrifice when Floyd Robertson died of influenza October 3, 1918. The Honor Roll published by the Grand Lodge contained the names of thirty other Hope Masons. They were Glen Templeton, Fred Crandall, Floyd Mullendore, William Heilman, Vern Miller, Ambrose Aspy, Frank Kent, Vernal Templeton, Floyd Wade, Lloyd Norton, Floyd Heilman, Dr. William J. Norton, Miller Clouse, D. P. Boyer, Joe Dodd, Ernest Burns, Lee Mullendore, Clinton Essex, Harris Dorrell, Arthur Jackson, Loren Abbott, Horace Corya, William Marlin, Warren Fishel, Wallace Danner, Paul Rominger, Elda Clouse, Roscoe Haymond, James Snider, and Charles Spotts.

The Honor Roll for World War II contained twenty-four names. Two of these were marked by Gold Stars. Major Gordon H. Haggard, a Hope physician at the time he entered service, was Group Flight Surgeon for the 457th Bomb group and was a crew member on a B-17 Flying Fortress which was lost on a bombing mission to Politz, Germany. First listed as missing, he was eventually declared to have been killed in action October 7, 1944. The other Gold Star was for Pfc. Paul M. Nading who was killed in action June 25, 1945, in Southern Luzon, Philippine Islands. His body now lies in the Hope Moravian Cemetery. The seventeen others who served in this War were Dr. William H. Norman, Robert R. Norris, P.M., Fred H. Miller, Harry C. Hitchcock, Charles E. Kissling, S. Clinton Burnes, Richard L. Thayer, Thomas L. Thayer, Donald W. Robertson, the Rev. David M. Shepherd, Hubert Day, Paul S. Neligh, Thomas E. Hoover, Paul Lemmon, W.M., Raleigh E. Reed, Harry H. Gruhl, and Kenneth L. Hitchcock. Five became members of the Lodge while serving in the armed forces—Owen K. Downey, Donald R. Robertson, C. Taylor Ross, J. William Heilman, and Harold R. Powell. The last two were initiated and then had to wait until they returned from overseas to complete the work.

In more recent years, as the Korean crisis made further military service necessary, other Brethren have answered the call to the colors, and as before, some have become Masons while serving in the armed forces.

### Twenty-five-Year Awards

One of the most memorable events in the history of the Lodge took place on the evening of September 26, 1951, when a special recognition service was held in honor of the seventy-nine members of the Lodge who had been Masons for twenty-five years or longer. Thirty-nine of the honored guests were present to receive their silver lapel buttons in person. Wallace W. Wright, Worshipful Master, welcomed the guests and presented Laurence R. Taylor, Editor of "The Indiana Freemason" and then Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Indiana who gave an inspiring address. After the presentation of the awards, a response was given by Past Master Lewis M. Blades, oldest member of the Lodge. A program of special music was followed by refreshments served to the Masons,



25-YEAR MEMBERS

The thirty-nine Masons who received their twenty-five year membership awards September 26, 1951. Forty others were honored "in absentia." The fifth Brother from the left, front row, is Clinton E. Marlin, who died eleven days before he was scheduled to receive the Grand Lodge Award of Gold.

their families, and friends in the dining room. Among the special guests were Paul H. Reardon, Superintendent of the Indiana Masonic Home, and Dr. Samuel Shirley, Chaplain at the Home. Seventeen of the twenty-one living Past Masters of the Lodge were also present.

### The Membership Records

The membership records of the Lodge present an interesting study. Altogether five hundred ninety-five men have been affiliated with the Lodge as of January 1, 1953. Three apparently did not become active members, ninety-four transferred their membership from other Lodges or came in by demit from a non-affiliated status, four hundred ninety-seven were raised in Hope Lodge, and the manner of entry of one is unknown. Of the three hundred eighty-five who are no longer in the Lodge, one hundred forty have died, sixty-one were suspended, eleven expelled, and one hundred demitted, most of them for the purpose of joining other Lodges. What became of the other twelve is as yet a mystery. That members tend to retain their membership in the home Lodge more than they once did even though life takes them far afield is indicated by the fact that in the first fifty years 52.4% of those who left the Lodge left by demit while in the last forty-nine years only 38.8% departed in this manner.

The occupations listed by members on their petitions are very revealing. The records, of course, are not conclusive for two reasons: first, the petitions for the early years were not kept and we have no occupational record of many of the members, and second, members often changed their work, sometimes more than once. As one might expect in a rural community, the number of farmers has been three times that of the next largest group—teachers. Merchants, ministers, laborers, physicians, factory workers, and salesmen follow in that order. An unusual number of the merchants were either grocers or hardware dealers. The first of the grocers was listed as the operator of a "provision store." The listing of ten men as carriage makers calls to mind that Hope was once a very important center of that industry. One may smile a bit as he reads of such occupations as saddler, peddler, livery man, and teamster but one can also imagine how perplexed our ancient Brethren would be to read that today one

Brother is a "chiropractic" physician, that another operates a "locker" plant and that another is engaged in "time study." Familiar as they were with toll stations and cattle drivers, they probably would wonder if these bore any resemblance to "filling" stations and "truck" drivers. One old-timer was listed as "man of leisure!" Most assuredly he was not engaged in writing a history!

Ministers and doctors have a way of getting closer to people than persons in other professions normally do. So it has been in this community. For a number of years it was the custom of Hope Lodge to remit the dues and sometimes at least a part of the initiation fee for "ministers of the Gospel" as they were always called in the minutes. Fourteen of the Methodist ministers of the community have been members of Hope Lodge but only three of the Moravians have been and these in comparatively recent years. Of course there have been more Methodist ministers in Hope, since for many years there was a limitation in that church on the length of a pastorate. This resulted in rather short periods of membership for most of the ministers."

The opposite has been true of our doctor members, particularly in the cases of Dr. Eugene G. Regennes and Dr. Lewis D. Reed. These two men, who were brothers-in-law, together accounted for more than one hundred years of Masonic life. Dr. Regennes was a dentist at the time he came into the Lodge but he later became an optometrist, physician, and surgeon. A man of great versatility, he was skilled as a painter and sculptor and a gifted musician, composer, and poet. He was organist of the Moravian Church and played at the Easter Sunrise Service for fifty-three consecutive years. The anthem, "Behold There Was A Great Earthquake," sung annually at the Sunrise Service, is one of his compositions. Brother Regennes was Worshipful Master in 1889 and Secretary from 1895 through 1897.

It was an unusual coincident that Dr. Reed possessed many of the same talents and skills. In art, his interest lay

<sup>9</sup>Ministers who have been members of Hope Lodge are William Montgomery, William K. Ream, Isaac Chivington, P.M., James H. Davidson, Samuel G. Longdon, Thomas W. Jones, George W. Winchester, William H. Wydman, Jeremiah D. Current, Charles D. Wilson, John W. J. Collins, Euphrates Barrett, David M. Shepherd, and Henry A. Meyer—all Methodists; William H. Fluck, Reinhold Henkelman, and Arnim H. Francke—Moravians; John B. Brazelton, Christian; Charles H. Stoddard, Baptist, and T. J. Murphy, Oliver L. Moulder, Harrison Harrell, and Willard Hendrickson.

especially in woodcarving and he produced many beautiful pieces. He practiced medicine for fifty-eight years, all but the first five in Hope. In 1947 on the eve of the sixtieth anniversary of Dr. Reed's becoming a Mason, this writer, then Worshipful Master, when presenting a beautiful white lily to him, said in part, "Let the waxen whiteness of its petals symbolize the same purity of life and conduct represented by that other emblem you have worn through the years with equal pleasure to yourself and honor to the Fraternity; let the greenery of its foliage represent the timeless and immortal regard the people of this community have for you, its beloved family doctor." Neither Dr. Reed nor Dr. Regennes retired but each continued his good work until his final illness.<sup>10</sup>

### Families in Masonry

A significant tribute to the worth which men attach to the Masonic way of life lies in the fact that at least fifty-seven fathers have been followed in local Masonic membership by one or more sons and seven have followed in the footsteps of their sons. Four times fathers have sat in the East for their sons to receive the Master Mason degree. The first such occasion was on July 24, 1883, when Worshipful Master John Ambrose Miller raised his son, Herman S. Miller. The former's brother, James A. Miller, was also raised that evening but who presided is not a matter of record. William E. Pancake, for more than sixty years an active and honored member of Camon Lodge No. 343, told the writer in 1951 that he was present on this occasion and that he remembered distinctly seeing the father raise the son. He commented further that this was the only time he ever had had such an experience and that this was probably the first time he himself had seen the exemplification of the degree.

On October 11, 1932, Brother Harmon S. Dixon raised his son, Lewis, and then on July 2, 1944, Brother Dixon became the only father in Hope history to raise two sons when he "did the honors" for his younger son, Ernest. On a later occasion when one of the sons accompanied the father to another Lodge, the latter was asked if he could

<sup>10</sup>Other doctors who belonged to Hope Lodge are Charles S. Boynton, P.M., Rufus H. Roope, Uriah C. Prather, John M. Tobias, Noble S. Winterrowd, B. Fitzpatrick, P.M., William J. Norton, Benjamin F. Dudding, William C. Heilman, John A. M. Aspy, Harold B. Cox, William H. Norman, Joseph E. Dudding, Gordon H. Haggard, Robert B. Hart, and George C. Weinland.

vouch for the strange Brother. He replied that he "guessed he could; he had 'raised' him twice!"

On November 12, 1949, Brother Elda J. Clouse sat in the East when his son, Joseph, was made a Mason. The Craft of Veritas Lodge No. 608 of Indianapolis visited Hope on this occasion and in full regalia gave the work in a most dignified and impressive manner.

The only occasion when a father and son took the work together was on May 16, 1944, when Herschel H. Swartz and his son, George, were raised. On November 27, 1947, the Craft of Mystic Tie Lodge No. 398 paid a visit to Hope when Walter J. Gilliland and his son-in-law, Merrill J. Clouse, were raised. For Brother Gilliland, the Master's Chair was occupied by his uncle, Fred J. Willis, for many years a distinguished Indianapolis Mason.

From May 19, 1925, until his death on November 25, of the same year, Brother John M. Klipsch had the unusual distinction of being the father of four sons who were members at the same time: Vernal, Ray, DeWitte, and Arthur John Klipsch.

Brother Charles Neligh of an earlier day also was the father of four Masonic sons but not all at the same time. Incidentally the Neligh family is the only one which has provided members in direct descent through four generations. Brother Charles, his son Sherman, the latter's son Leon, and his son Paul account for this distinction.

In recent years the four Essex brothers — Joseph, Leonard, Homer, and George—hold the record for family membership. Homer was Worshipful Master in 1948. All the brothers are members of the Eastern Star and both Joseph and Leonard have served as Worthy Patrons of Esther Chapter.

Any discussion of family Masonic membership in Hope would not be complete without a reference to the Miller family. Nineteen persons of this name, a record number, have been members of Hope Lodge and most of them have been related. One of the most prominent and one to whom frequent reference has been made was John Ambrose Miller. The first set of minutes now in possession of the Lodge, that of August 7, 1860, tell of the raising of Brother Miller. He served as Second Lieutenant of Company I, Thirty-third Regiment, in the Civil War and in 1886 be-