

Latest Lodge News:

Membership: Please welcome our newest Members!

Please Welcome Our Three Newest Members! (March)
John Alvey, Thad Freeman and WB Geoffrey J. Donaldson

Please Welcome Our Three Newest Members! (February)
Mark Anich, John Folker and Dr. George Young III:

Please Welcome Our Three Newest Members! (January)
Gregg Gurbacki, Gregg Wells and Robert Loudon

Please Welcome Our Six Newest Members! (December)
John Christopher Martin, WM Thomas A. Brazer, Kirk Collins
Chris Donnelly, Brent Karstens, and Mark Parmenter.

Nebraska's population is growing! 32 new members in just
15 months!! This growth would not be possible if it were not for
the support of other lodges and the help of there members.

*I am most humbled by all the support of our surrounding lodges,
... but most especially the help of the following brethren:
These are just a few of so many helpful brethren*

Past Masters: Steve O'Rickie, Paul Welsch, Jeff Merriman, Randy
McFarland, David Kipp, Edward Labreck, and Robert Whipple of
Florence Lodge #281, Omaha, Nebraska; Bernard Hauber, Michael
Donham, and Al Bangert of Covert Lodge #11, Omaha Nebraska.
W.:M.:Aasgaard also thanked Brother Al Burton of Florence Lodge
281, Nebraska for all his help and Brother Don Gockley of Covert
Lodge #11, Omaha, Nebraska; Past Grand Custodian Gus Scolaro,
Grand Custodian Emeritus of Capitol Lodge #3 Omaha, Nebraska.

Worshipful Pepper Aasgaard

Installation of Officers 2003

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Nebraska

Michael E. Jones, Presiding

M.:W.: Past Grand Master

Phillip A. Lorenzen -Installing Marshal

M.:W.:Michael E. Jones -Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska;
M.:W.: Past Grand Master, Phillip A. Lorenzen -Installing Marshal;

W.:M.:Thomas A. Brazer - Installing Chaplain;

W.:Bernard Hauber -Installing Secretary

W.: Pepper Aasgaard -Worshipful Master

W.:John B. Holzhey -Senior Warden: Michael Beardmore -Junior Warden

W.:Cary L. Manson -Secretary-Treasurer: W.:Jack Duffield -Chaplin

Dave MacDonald -Senior Deacon: Ronald Suhr -Junior Deacon

Aric Aasgaard -Senior Steward; Mark Parmenter -Junior Steward

W.:Ray Blakeman -Tyler



Back Row(s) L-R: W.:M.:Thomas A. Brazer - Installing Chaplain; John J. Wonder -High Priest & Prophet; Thomas K. Brummett -Assistant Rabban; W.:Ivan Vrtiska -Grand Senior Deacon;
M.:W.:Michael E. Jones -Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska; M.:W.: Past Grand Master, Phillip A. Lorenzen -Installing Marshal; "the one and only" James B. Parks, Sr.-Potentate Tangier Shine; Robert S. Maline -Chief Rabban; Cary L. Manson -Secretary-Treasurer-Recorder Tangier Shrine; Clay Greer -Photographer; W.:Bernard Hauber -Installing Secretary; **Bottom Row L-R:** Aric Aasgaard -Senior Steward; W.:Ray Blakeman -Tyler; Michael Beardmore -Junior Warden; W.:John B. Holzhey -Senior Warden; W.: Pepper Aasgaard -Worshipful Master; W.:Jack Duffield -Chaplin; Dave MacDonald - Senior Deacon; Ronald Suhr -Junior Deacon; Mark Parmenter -Junior Steward

The PIONEER 150th BLOQUEES

First Quarter Trestleboard 2003



Past Master **Geoffrey John Donaldson** of Belfast, Ireland brought greetings from his home lodge Shandon Lodge 701 in Belfast, Ireland. Brother Donaldson was presented with our lodge pin commissioned for the 150th year of Masonry in Nebraska and given pins for the officers of Shandon Lodge 701 as token of amity by our Master Pepper Aasgaard. It should be noted that W.:M.:Pepper Aasgaard invited Worshipful Brother Donaldson to our lodge while attending our 2003 Grand Lodge session in Grand Island, Nebraska.

WB Geoffrey J. Donaldson **petitioned for plural membership** with Nebraska Lodge #1. **Most Worshipful Phillip A. Lorenzen** Past Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska presented Brother Donaldson with a Grand Lodge pin.

Please our website and click on the following links: [Grand Lodge of Ireland](#), [Photo Tour](#) and [History links](#)

You will be able to view several rooms of this splendid structure of Masonry in Ireland.

For the latest news and updates; please visit your Lodge's website:
www.FirstLodge.com (or) www.WeHelpChildren.org

Remember to sign up for your free email address.

New Service and Fund Raiser for Our 150th Year!

We now have the "Sponsor Link" on our website to recognize our
150th Year Sponsors!

Sponsors are now be able to donate online just by filling out an online form and listing the categories they wish to be recognized under. We will also provide forwarding links for those who want their businesses listed. To be listed on our sponsor link page you must be a business or individual in good standing. We reserve the right to refuse any donations that are not of a legitimate nature and not conducive with the standards of our fraternity. To be listed as a sponsor there is a minimum donation required (to cover administration cost) is:

only \$10.00 per category listing;

Small logos (less than 20k), \$20.00 extra.

All proceeds from our sponsors and the sale of the 150 year lodge pins will go directly towards the "150 years of Masonry in Nebraska" fund. All residual funds after expenses of the event(s) and after cost of pins and mailing of such will be equally divided among the Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont, NE and The Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, NE and disbursed prior to December 31, 2005.

M.:W.:Phillip A. Lorenzen and M.:W.: Michael E, Jones support this wonderful project and look forward to this festive milestone for all masons including the Masonic homes we support. Each listing will be good through the end of 2005.

We want to thank all the Individual and Family Donators:

Pepper Aasgaard & Family, Clyde Birch & Family, Carl N. Christensen & Family, Hal J. Daub & Family, Curtis M. Edic and Family, James Eggers & Family, John F. Esler & Family, Dale R. Henton & Family, Earl G. Hinz & Family, Vernon F. Kee & Family, Bruce & Jacqueline Klein, Merle J. Leigh & Family, Victor Logsdon & Family, Robert May & Family, Myron Milder & Family, James M. Patton & Family, John Payton and Family, Cleo Robinson & Family, R. H. Fritchhoff & Family, LeRoy F. Stuehm & Family, Gene Welling & Family, John Wonder and Family

150 Years of Masonry

102 years ago William S. Heller, Master of Nebraska Lodge #1 held the first Past Master's Dinner on December 26th 1899 . . . and yes it was snowing outside.



All Past Master's except for the three deceased were represented.

Only a very few past Masters that lived in other states or were too frail to travel wrote eloquent letters which were then read aloud to those present at the dinner.

During the dinner our Past Master's spoke of how wonderful it was to be able to just get on a trolley and be let off just a few blocks from the lodge. They also spoke of when they were Master of our lodge, the problems they faced; the lack of member participation but more importantly how our lodge all began and how the members held the lodge together.

Among the letters was a very special one. It was from John Nye who served as our second Master. John Nye also was the individual who made the working tools we so proudly cherish. Next pioneer we will feature a short history on Brother John Nye.

We would not have this precious history if it had not been for the foresight of Brother William S. Heller.

Did you ever wonder why Brother Heller has a shovel in his hand? Our 75th year of Masonry in Nebraska was about two years away and several of the members got together and came up with a committee on what should be done during this grand moment in time.

Remember this was a time of great suffering in our Nation's History; a time that our fraternity was held together by just our brotherly bonds.

The idea of a "Diamond Jubilee" or 75th Year of Masonry in Nebraska commemorative monument in Bellevue was suggested over the years but became more imperative as the time neared.

Wallace E. Linn who was Master at the time: appointed a committee to investigate the feasibility of such an ambitious project and named: W.: Ben F. Eyre, Chairman.

The committee met with the Village Board of the Village of Bellevue and after receiving permission to erected a monument in the city park, the committee faced the next major hurdle, financing.

The rest of the story. . .

With the publication of these plans, a very generous offer was received from W. Brother William S. Heller, Past Master 1898-99. To the relief of the committee, he offer was to personally finance the entire project.



Brother Heller had been a court reporter in Omaha for many years. He was a most gracious Christian gentleman, a loyal and devoted member of the lodge whom every one who knew him loved and respected.

Brother Heller always had a desire to see a Memorial Marker of some sort established for Nebraska Lodge and now that the opportunity had presented itself, he personally underwrote the project financially.

The marble monolith was dedicated on June 7th 1932.

For more information regarding this and other fine members of our lodge, please visit our 150 Years of History on our website.

Up Coming Events!

We are busy with candidates most weeks:

Please come visit us soon:

First Monday: Business Meeting 6:30 PotLuck Men Only!
Business Meeting 7:30 pm

Second Monday: Entered Apprentice Degree(s)
refreshments supplied by lodge.

Third Monday: Fellow Craft Degree(s)
refreshments supplied by lodge.

Fourth Monday: Master Mason Degree(s)
refreshments supplied by lodge.

Past Masters Dinner

June 30th at 6:30 pm.

We will honor our Affiliated Past Masters!

Widows and Orphans Day

September 29th 2003

Our Departed and Beloved

Carl Cordle Age 82, Blair, NE January 14, 2003. 48 year Master Mason.

Wendell Lovitt Age 78, Metairie, LA 2002 49 year Master Mason.

Albert G. Bates WM 1963 Age 93, Omaha, NE Sept. 12, 2002.
40 year proficient Past Master. 33rd Degree Member of the Scottish Rite,

Brother James Goodbarn Age 77, Scottsdale, AZ Sept. 7, 2002.
43 year Master Mason.

Brother Willard Zimmerman Age 71, Littleton, Colorado July 24, 2002.
36 year Master Mason.



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