HISTORY

PRESTON LODGE

NUMBER 281, F. & A. M.



COMPILED BY

W. H. MEFFERT, P. G. M.

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A BREIF

Synopsis of the History

OF

PRESTON LODGE

No. 281 F. & A. M.

HELD AT LOUISVILLE, KY

From January 19, 1854 to January 19, 1914



COMPILED BY

Wm. H. Meffert P. G. M.

Masonic
Home Journal
1914

A BRIEF

SYNOPTICAL HISTORY

— OF —

PRESTON LODGE No. 281, F. & A. M.

FROM JANUARY 19, 1854, TO JANUARY 19, 1914, A PERIOD OF SIXTY YEARS

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Members of Preston Lodge, No. 281, F. & A. M.

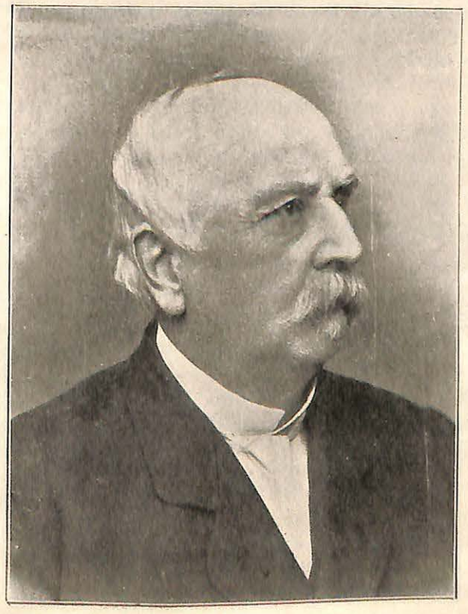
Brethren—Your committee has discharged the duties assigned them to abridge as far as possible the history of Preston Lodge and give only some of the salient facts which we deemed should be embodied in this synopsis of her brilliant history. We regret that not a more complete history could be made without going at great length into her brilliant achievements.

Respectfully and fraternally,

WM. H. MEFFERT,
JOHN MAAS,
Committee.

In the short sketch to be submitted as required by the Grand Lodge Committee on the History of Lodges in this jurisdiction, it is impossible to do anything like justice to a Lodge like "Preston" in the short space allotted, as indicated by them in securing the history of the Lodges in the State of Kentucky.

In the latter part of 1853, Brothers Smith Gregory, H. F. Vissman, W. K. Thomas, Jeremiah Bush, Philip Husser, Taylor P. Smith, Alexander Stafford, Henry Koehler and J. T. Norwood, all of whom had demitted from the following Lodges, of which they had been members, viz: Abraham Lodge, No. 8; Clarke Lodge, No. 51, and Mt. Zion Lodge, No. 147, made an application to Most Worshipful Thomas Todd, at the time the Grand Master of Kentucky, petitioning him to grant a dispensation for the establishment of a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, to be located in the



THE LODGE IS NAMED
IN HONOR OF

Brother William Preston

DISTINGUISHED STATESMAN, DIPLOMAT AND SOLDIER.

HE WAS A GRADUATE OF WEST POINT, HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF CONGRESS 1854-1855, WAS A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 1849, MINISTER TO SPAIN UNDER PRESIDENT BUCHANAN, AND WAS A MAJOR GENERAL IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY. DECEASED SEPTEMBER 21, 1887.

eastern part of the City of Louisville, setting forth in the petition their belief that by granting their prayer the cause of Masonry would be benefited and strengthened by the establishment of said Lodge. Posterity alone has determined how wisely they builded. The prayer of the petition was granted, and thus was brought into being what has been proven to be one of the greatest Lodges on the American continent. At this time its numerical strength is twelve hundred, being the seventh largest Lodge numerically in this country.

Preston Lodge, U. D., was organized in their hall on Main street, between Campbell and Shelby streets, on Thursday evening, January 19, 1854, and regularly constituted under dispensation by David T. Montserrat, Deputy Grand Master.

Chartered

The Lodge was regularly chartered August 31, 1854, by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, to be styled and known as Preston Lodge, No. 281. The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Robert Morris, and Past Master Smith Gregory, having been commissioned by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Marcus M. Tyler, as his proxies, organized the aforesaid members into a regularly chartered Lodge, installed the officers, and set them to work in ancient form and manner, and dedicated the hall to Masonry, and thus was started on its career the most prosperous of all Lodges in this jurisdiction.

Preston Lodge has ever been filled with the true spirit. The great principles of Masonry have been imprinted on the minds and grafted into the hearts of her membership so as to goad them on in the discharge of their Masonic obligations, voluntarily assumed to fulfill the great tenets of the Mason's profession—Brotherly Love. Relief, Truth, and, above all, Charity. Our noble Lodge is fulfilling her heaven-born mission; she is feeding the hungry and clothing the naked; she is ministering to the sick and afflicted; condoling with the widow and the orphan in their bereavement, and bestowing that aid and assistance which their necessities may require, and by her example and actions filling the hearts of her membership with the true Masonic spirit, which is abundantly attested by her history for the past sixty years. May she ever continue so to practice and grow in usefulness in succeeding years, that the world may realize it is better off by the existence of Masonry if the Lodges, like Preston, are permeated with the true spirit. So mote it be!

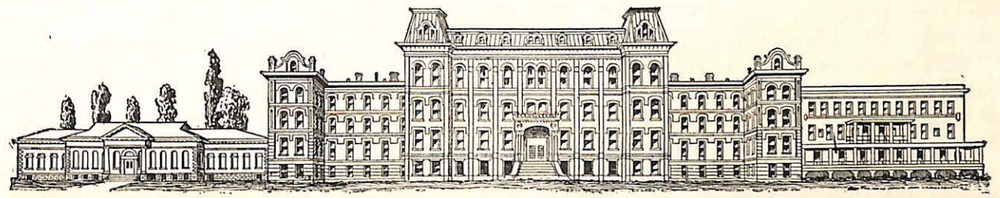
At the annual meeting held December 27, 1859, Brother A. Y. Johnson, from the committee appointed by the Lodge to confer with the committee of Lafayette Fire Company in reference to the purchase of their hall and furniture, reported that said company had made him a proposition to sell their interest in said property for the sum of $400.00. On motion the committee was instructed to accept the proposition and buy the property. The committee closed the deal and bought the property, and the Lodge removed to their new hall in January, 1860. This proved to be a very wise move made by the Lodge, for by the purchase of the Lafayette Fire Company's interest in this engine house (which consisted of the third floor of said building), and the contents of their hall, it not only enabled the Lodge to live free of rent, but gave them a home of their own under their exclusive control. The quarters they were now in possession of were far superior to those formerly occupied in Sommer's Hall, located on the same block.

THE CLAY STATUTE

The Lodge was called at 8 o'clock a. m., May 30, 1866, to participate with the Grand Lodge of Kentucky and all Masonic bodies of the city in the ceremonies of unveiling the statue of the "Great Commoner," Henry Clay, Past Grand Master. The statue is of marble, life size, by Hart, and occupies the rotunda on the main floor of the Jefferson County Court House, and is a life-like representation of the great statesman in the attitude of addressing the United States Senate.

The ceremonies of unveiling were of a very imposing nature. A choir of one hundred voices sang a poem written for the occasion by Brother George D. Prentice.

OUR HOME



The committee feels that it is not necessary to make an apology for publishing a brief synopsis of the founding, upbuilding and putting into successful operation of one of the greatest charities of the age (the first of its kind on the American continent), the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary of Kentucky. Preston Lodge, from the Home's incipiency, enlisted in this holy cause for all time. She has been active, and has put forth every energy of her entire membership to raise funds for its establishment and maintenance. The first subscription made by any Masonic body in the State was made by Preston; she also gave the first subscription to the Endowment Fund.

In November, 1866, a mass meeting of Masons was called to consider facts as submitted to this meeting, as follows: A brother, who was a Frenchman by birth, was an inmate of an infirmary under the auspices of the Catholic Church, and ill unto death. He had been a member of the fraternity for forty years, and had requested frequently that he should receive Masonic burial. The sisters of the institution were continually after him to renounce Masonry and die in the Catholic faith, which he refused to do, and requested Brother Dupree, a member of Preston Lodge, and others to see to it that he receive Masonic burial. Brother Dupree left him about 9 o'clock one evening with the promise that he would see him early next morning, and on his visit the next morning, agreeable to promise, he was told that he was dead, had renounced Masonry, and was then on his way to the cemetery for burial. When these facts became known in Masonic circles a great howl of indignation went up all over the city and a mass meeting was called.

In obedience to this call a number of Masons met in the small hall of the Masonic Temple and the following resolution was adopted, to-wit:

"Resolved, That we agree to form ourselves into a society for the purpose of erecting in or near the City of Louisville a Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary."

The first subscription was made at this meeting of one thousand dollars by Brother C. Henry Finck, a member of Willis Stewart Lodge, No. 224, of Louisville.

The result of this meeting was the application for and obtaining from the Legislature, January 15, 1867, a liberal charter incorporating this institution. Shortly after an organization was effected under the charter and a constitution and by-laws were adopted.

Thus was brought into being one of the greatest charities in the world, and the first of its kind in this country.

There were present at the founding of this institution a number of the members of Preston Lodge, among whom were Brothers John W. Gans and W. H. Meffert, who has served as a Director of the Home continuously from May, 1869, to May, 1914, a period of forty-five years.

The Supreme Architect of the Universe put it into the hearts of Louisville Masons in 1866 to establish and maintain an organized charity for the support and maintenance of the widows and orphans of deceased Masons in the State of Kentucky, and an infirmary for the nursing and caring for the sick Craftsmen of the State.

At a stated meeting held May 15, 1867, the Lodge subscribed for three life memberships in the proposed Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary, amounting to $300.00, which was the first subscription made by any Masonic body to this institution. With this action of the Lodge at that time she enlisted for all time in this holy cause. She also gave the first subscription made by any Masonic body to the Endowment Fund, and the first free-will offering to the Home, which has been continued for the past fifteen years, averaging about eight hundred dollars per annum, in

addition to the Home assessment. The Lodge remodeled and put in first-class condition the infirmary of the Home at an expense of $3,000, and also put the first decorative window into the Chapel of the Home.

Laying the Corner Stone of the Masonic Home

The Lodge was called on Tuesday, October 19, 1869, to participate with the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in the laying of the corner stone of the proposed Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary, to be erected on a beautiful plot of ground lying north of C avenue, and extending from First to Second streets. Brother T. T. Shreve, now deceased, donated about three and one-half acres of this ground, and the Board of Directors purchased about two acres adjoining.

The procession was a large and imposing one, and was participated in by all of the fifteen Lodges in Louisville, New Albany and Jeffersonvi le, the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, together with the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, by whom the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies in the midst of a fierce mid-winter snowstorm, Elisha S. Fitch, Grand Master, officiating.

The Grand Master, Elisha S. Fitch, in his address highly commended the proposed Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home to the fostering care of the individual Masons and Lodges in this jurisdiction, and the Grand Lodge adopted the following resolution, to-wit:

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge cordially recommends to the Subordinate Lodges under its jurisdiction, and every Mason in the Commonwealth, the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary of Kentucky, and ask for it their assistance, having the fullest confidence in its able and efficient Board of Managers, whilst, at the same time, we express the opinion that the Masons of Kentucky are pledged to the success of the enterprise."

The session of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, held in 1869, adopted the following recommendation in reference to the proposed Home: "Your committee would recommend that each Lodge in the State identify itself with this institution, that it may really be 'The Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home of Kentucky.'"

The following resolution was also adopted:

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge hails with pleasure the prospect of the speedy erection, within her jurisdiction, of a Home for the destitute widows and orphans of our order, and that we will not cease in our efforts for its establishment until it is completed and ready to receive under its sheltering care and protection those who are now suffering for want of such a Home."

In the fall of 1869 the Board secured the services of Past Grand Master E. S. Fitch, who commenced an active canvass on the first of January, 1870, and secured subscriptions from individuals and Masonic bodies amounting to over $20,000.

The herculean efforts put forth by the fraternity of Louisville, after laying the corner stone in 1869, to at once build the north wing was amazing. It was thought by many that it would be impossible to raise an amount sufficient. They faltered not, but with strong hearts, willing hands and unbounded faith they went to work and succeeded. Thanks be to God, it was accomplished. An amount sufficient to complete this wing of the building agreeable to the designs on our Trestle Board had, by their efforts, been secured.

During this year the north wing of the building was erected and completed, and at the meeting of the Grand Lodge on the 18th of October, 1870, the north wing was dedicated with the solemn and impressive ceremonies of the order, Grand Master Charles Eginton officiating.

The superhuman efforts made in behalf of the Home by Preston Lodge and her membership from that day to the present time shows conclusively that she is enlisted for all time in this holy cause. This Lodge and its individual members have contributed at various times sums of money amounting in the aggregate to the munificent sum of over fifty-three thousand dollars.

The various Masonic bodies of Louisville and their membership have contributed to this great charity in life memberships, assessments, bequests, donations and endowment fund, hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Some time during the winter of 1868-69 the ladies of this city organized a society in aid of this noble charity, styled the "Ladies' Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home Society," of which Mrs. Susan P. Hepburn was President. This noble band of ladies raised in aid of the building fund, by holding fairs, bazaars, etc., upward of twelve thousand dollars. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon this organization. These ladies have manifested a zeal and energy in this charity in every way worthy of our institution.

On the seventh day of April, 1871, the doors of the Home were opened for the reception of inmates.

The Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1870 adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That at and after the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge, the Grand Treasurer be authorized to appropriate and pay over to the Treasurer of the Masonic Widows and

Orphans' Home and Infirmary the remaining thirty cents of each dollar of dues actually paid in by said subordinates, in aid of the Endowment Fund of said institution until the further order of this Grand Lodge."

On November 3, 1871, the Grand Treasurer paid to the Managers of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary $5,912.40, being th rty cents per member, as authorized by the Grand Lodge, on 19,798 paying members reported by Subordinate Lodges for the endowment of said institution. This was the first donation made by the Grand Lodge to the Masonic Home. On November 3, 1872, the Grand Treasurer paid the Board of Managers $6,127.80, being thirty cents per member in part on 20,426 paying members reported by Subordinate Lodges for the endowment of said institution. In 1873, $3,000 in part was paid.

The Masonic bodies of Louisville inaugurated in 1872 the celebration of St. John's Day, June 24th, in the interest of the Home, a celebration gotten up very hurriedly, which proved a grand success and netted the Home $4,302.97. These celebrations were continued many years by the Masons of Louisville, until quite recently, and a sum in the aggregate of $150,000 has been paid to the Home through this source.

Endowment Fund

To support and permanently sustain the institution it was found necessary to establish this fund. The first Masonic body to subscribe to this fund was made by the action of Preston Lodge on October 19, 1870, when, by resolution, it was ordered that five per cent. of Preston Lodge's gross receipts be set aside and subscribed to the endowment of the Home, to be paid on December 27th annually.

On Thursday, October 22, 1874, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky immortalized itself by making the princely gift of $78,500 to the Endowment Fund of our Home. On that occasion the Finance Committee reported that the Grand Lodge had an invested fund of $108,777.50, and in their report asked this question:

"But why this vast accumulation of money, and what shall we do with it? A ready, prompt and proper response is easily given. Just within the city limits stands our Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary, the north wing of the building completed, furnished and filled with 150 beneficiaries left by our departed brothers to our fostering care, and demanding from us the sustenance to which they are entitled at our hands. This building is unfinished and unendowed. The Craft throughout the United States, and, in fact, the entire world, are watching our progress in this noble work, ready to follow in our footsteps if we succeed, while the enemies of our grand old order are also watching us with jealous eyes, ready to laugh us to scorn if we fail. In order to prevent failure and make this noble work a perfect success, there must be heavy contributions from the Craft. What better mode for the Craft to make contribution than to donate to the Home the vast accumulations of the Grand Lodge? None better occurs to your committee, and no better use can be found for this money than to relieve the wants of the widows and orphans of our dead. To the Home this money, or rather the bulk of it, should go. We therefore recomemnd that the appropriations be made."

And the following resolution was adopted, viz:

"Resolved, That this Grand Lodge do hereby donate to the Endowment Fund of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary of the State of Kentucky the sum of $78,500, to be paid in bonds of the Masonic Temple Company, and the Grand Treasurer of this Grand Lodge is hereby directed to transfer and turn over to the Board of Directors of said Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary these bonds, to be held by them as part of the Endowment Fund of said institution.

"Resolved, That, commencing with the session of this Grand Lodge for the year 1875, that there be and is hereby appropriated and donated to the said Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home and Infirmary the sum of $3,720, to be paid annually to the Board of Directors of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home by the Grand Treasurer out of any surplus funds in his hands."

This appropriation was paid for a number of years.

St. John's Day

The first celebration of St. John's Day in the interest of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home by the Lodges of the City of Louisville was held June 24, 1872. The celebration was a big success. Upwards of forty-one hundred dollars was realized for the Home. Preston Lodge's membership and their ladies took a very active part, and the amount realized at their booths amounted to $462.15.

St. John's Day, 1873

The success of the first effort made last year in the interest of this great charity proved to be an incentive to attempt greater things this year. Every Lodge in the city and some of the Lodges in the county agreed to have tables, and did. Each of the city Lodges put forth their best energies in the philanthropic effort, netting to the Home the handsome sum of $15,945.05. The entire membership of Preston and over one hundred ladies were engaged in conducting Preston's booths. Nearly $3,000 was turned in to the Finance Committee by Preston Lodge, being a little more than one-fifth of the gross amount realized.



A PLEASANT OCCASION

Preston Lodge, No. 281, last evening, December 27, 1873, was the scene of one of those incidents in the history of many organizations where unremitting zeal and fidelity on the part of the presiding officer are marked by the substantial appreciation of the members. At six annual elections heretofore held, William H. Meffert had been elected Worshipful Master. At the close of the installation ceremonies Brother Charles R. Long, on behalf of the members of Preston Lodge, presented Brother Meffert with a magnificent gold watch, chain and Maltese cross, costing $300. Brother Long spoke in part as follows:

"Allow me to say that the brethren of Preston Lodge in particular, and the Masonic fraternity of the city and the State at large, were exceedingly fortunate on the seventh day of June, 1865, when you were initiated, thus becoming a member of this Lodge and the Masonic fraternity. Preston Lodge so well appreciated the good material thus placed at their disposal that on the 27th day of December you were appointed Senior Deacon. On the 27th of December, 1866, you were elected Senior Warden. On the 27th day of December, 1867, you were elected Worshipful Master, and annually thereafter up to the present time, and again on this occasion. During your eight and one-half years of membership you have been a constant and faithful member of the fraternity, winning the confidence and affection of the members of the Lodge, until today Preston Lodge is, under you as Master, the equal, if not the superior, of any Lodge in the State of Kentucky. Under your faithfulness and care Preston Lodge has achieved the enviable reputation of having done more, practically, in behalf of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home than any Lodge within the limits of our State. Therefore, as a testimony of the high regard and love they have for you as Master of this Lodge, and as a member, I am deputized, in behalf of the members, and am honored by the pleasing task of presenting to you this beautiful and magnificent watch, chain and Maltese cross. May the appreciation of your character for all time to come be as the richness of the material in which the machinery of this watch is enclosed. May the mark of your living character, as time passes, be in union, harmony and strength as the component parts of this chain. May the accuracy with which this watch designates the flight of time mark our regard for you as a member of this Lodge, as a citizen and as an officer. In behalf of the members, permit me to present this watch and chain as a token of our esteem for you."

DEATH OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

The Lodge was called at 1 o'clock p. m., on March 7, 1875, in obedience to the order of Deputy Grand Master John H. Leathers, for the purpose of joining the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in paying the last sad tribute of respect to our departed brother, Past Grand Master J. M. S. McCorkle, and late Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

E. Y. PARSONS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The fatal mandate had gone forth to strike from the roll of human existence one of the most illustrious names recorded thereon. This fatal mandate was executed by the Angel of Death on our beloved and much-esteemed brother, Edward Young Parsons, who died in the thirty-third year of his life in Washington, D. C., July 8, 1876. His untimely death was sincerely lamented by his city, his State and the Nation.

PARTIAL DESTRUCTION OF THE HOME

On June 2nd of 1875 a severe storm passed over our Home, situated in the southern portion of the city. The north wing was completed and had been occupied since 1871. The center of the main building and the south wing was up and roofed in, but nothing had been done to the interior. The center building was blown down, causing a loss of about $35,000. Notwithstanding the great calamity, there was cause for thankfulness to God for His mercy in sparing the lives of all the inmates—not one was injured.

A public meeting was called soon after the disaster and enough money was subscribed to re-erect the building destroyed. Preston Lodge subscribed $2,500. This amount was raised by a voluntary subscription made by the individual members of Preston Lodge.

After this the Masonic fraternity of Louisville at once went to work to complete the entire building as it now stands. In the summer of 1875 the work was progressing rapidly to completion when, on the 2nd day of June, the entire center, or main building, and the towers were destroyed by a severe cyclone, entailing a loss of about $30,000; but this circumstance seemed only to push the Masons of the city and State to renewed energy, and soon every brick and stone was replaced. A public meeting was held in Louisville shortly after the disaster, and about enough money was subscribed to re-erect the portion of the building destroyed.

The building in its entirety, as you now see it, was completed and dedicated on October 23, 1878. The occasion was one of the most imposing that ever occurred in the history of Masonry in Kentucky. A great crowd of people, including over one thousand Masons, were in attendance.

The building was presented for dedication by Brother T. L. Jefferson, Sr., President of the Board of Directors, who spoke in part as follows:

"We hail this auspicious day as one long to be remembered by the Masonic fraternity. A day which shall chronicle an event of momentous import to the philanthropist; an event of deepest interest, not only to those now present with us, but that will doubtless add to the cheer, hope and comfort of hundreds, yes, of thousands, in years to come.

"For ages past Masonic dedications of public buildings have been customary. Today it has been delegated to me, by my associate Directors, who are entrusted with the management and control of one of the greatest charities of the age, to present to you, and in their name and through you to the Masons of Kentucky, this large edifice, erected by their liberality, for consecration to God and the sacred cause of charity; to dry the widow's tear and hush the orphan's wail; and we now present to you for dedication this monument of fraternal love of those who have thus tried to fulfill their oft-repeated vow to care for the widow and the orphan by the erection and completion of this Home."

The Grand Master then in part spoke as follows:

"It may be asked, what mean these extensive buildings, this large assembly? It all means that there is in Kentucky Masonry a real charity; it means that so far as we are concerned our charity

shall no longer be hidden under a cloak, and that this edifice stands as a monument to the generosity of Kentucky Masonry. It means more, by far; it means that the widow and orphan have a home prepared for them, and that this large assembly means that we have come here today to celebrate the completion and dedication of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home of Kentucky with becoming ceremonies to the glorious purposes for which it is intended.

"The Mother Grand Lodge of the Mississippi Valley has proven to the world that a systematic charity is not only possible, but desirable. Here we gather the orphans and widows of loved brethren, and, in obedience to our voluntary obligations, we feed and clothe them and protect them from the many evils that throng around the destitute and unprotected, which is almost impossible except in a systematized charity like this. But we go farther than all this; we educate the children and fit them for stations in life ofttimes far above that they would reach were it not for the benevolence of Masonry. Is not, then, such a systematized charity really honorable to God and creditable to Masonry? Then, henceforth this is our Mount Moriah; this is our Temple, sacred to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth."

The services of dedication were then performed by the Grand Master, assisted by the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Chaplain, and thus concluded one of the most interesting dedicatory services our citizens ever witnessed. Gov. James B. McCreary, Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge, Past Grand Master Elisha S. Fitch and the Rev. H. A. M. Henderson each delivered an elaborate address on that occasion.

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments were voted on themselves by the individual Masons throughout this Grand Jurisdiction as follows:

In 1876 a committee recommended that an assessment of $1 per capita per annum for five years be levied on Masons of Kentucky for the maintenance of the Home. Past Grand Master Thomas Pettit offered a proviso that the matter be first submitted to the Lodges. The proposition was referred to the Lodges to be voted on December 27, 1876. It was carried by a majority of 1,704 votes and became a law and so promulgated.

In 1881 the assessments of $1 was reduced to fifty cents per capita, not to be operative until approved by the Lodges. It was voted on December 27, 1881, and carried, and so promulgated by the Grand Master.

In 1892 the Home assessments were increased from fifty cents to $1 per capita a year, which was to include the subscription to the Masonic Home Journal. It was voted on December 27, 1891, by the Lodges and carried by a majority of 3,330 in favor of it. This assessment is at this time in vogue.

In 1906 the Board of Directors found it necessary to erect a new building, containing a Chapel and school rooms, which was done, and the building completed in 1907, at a cost of about $30,000. It was dedicated in May, 1907.

In 1908 a building was erected to accommodate the industries of the Home, divided into three apartments, one containing the Printing Office, one the Shoe Making Department, and the other the Manual Training Department, at a cost of about $28,000. This building is commodious and especially arranged for the various industries taught. Good work is being done. When the boys leave the Home they will be equipped in a great measure to sustain themselves in the battles of life.

The girls are taught sewing, typewriting, stenography, dressmaking, etc.

CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary occurred at Liederkranz Hall on Tuesday evening, January 21, 1879. The date of the founding of the Lodge is January 19th, and it coming on Sunday, the Lodge decided to celebrate on the date named. Elaborate preparations had been made for this great event. The entire building was secured for the occasion. It was suitably and handsomely decorated, so as to fittingly carry out the program arranged.

The celebration began with a grand concert at 8 p. m. in the large auditorium on the second floor. Schneider and Kerker's orchestra, numbering twenty-five pieces, occupied the stage. The musical program was superb and was admirably rendered. Brother W. H. Meffert made a very elaborate address, giving a succinct history of the Lodge from its organization up to the present time. At the conclusion of the concert the assembly formed into line and proceeded to the lower hall to the banquet.

Banquet

The number present can be imagined when we state that there were seven tables (the full length of the hall), and every seat occupied—about six hundred members and their ladies.

Brother I. A. Kelly, Master of the Lodge, made the welcome address. Brother W. H. Meffert delivered the historical address. The tables literally groaned with the good things with which they were loaded, and were ornamented by fourteen elegant pyramids, adorned with the emblems of the Masonic order. One grand temple, six feet high, showing in the center of it the Master delivering the charge, the tout ensemble presenting a delightful coup d'ceil. Mirth and good fellowship ruled the hour.

Toasts

First—"The Grand Lodge of Kentucky, the Mother Grand Lodge of the Mississippi Valley." Responded to by Brother A. G. Hodges, Grand Treasurer.

Second—"The Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home." Responded to by T. L. Jefferson, Sr., President of the Home.

Third—"The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons Wheresoever Spread Around the Globe." Responded to by W. H. Bartholomew.

Fourth—"The Founders of Preston Lodge." Response by H. F. Vissman, Sr.

Fifth—"Brother Wm. Preston, the Brother After Whom the Lodge is Named." Response by Charles R. Long.

After the conclusion of the toasts the assemblage arose, and with the Master, I. A. Kelly, and lady in the lead, returned to the large hall, where the "light fantastic" was heartily enjoyed "till broad daylight in the morning."

A more memorable, enjoyable, happy time it has never been our lot heretofore to witness.

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, held in October, 1881, Preston Lodge was honored by the election of one of her members to the highest position within the gift of the Grand Lodge, when they elected Brother Wm. H. Meffert Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky.

On November 26, 1881, Grand Master W. H. Meffert prepared a circular letter relative to the fifty-cent assessment for the maintenance of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home of the State of Kentucky, and had the Grand Secretary mail a copy of it to each Subordinate Lodge in the State so that the Craft at large could vote intelligently upon the proposition. After it had been sent out he learned that an effort was being made in various parts of the State to defeat the measure. In order to circumvent this, and so that the large majority of the Craft, who do not attend the stated meetings of their Lodges regularly, should fully understand what the Home had accomplished and what its necessities were, he conceived the idea, and carried it into execution, personally addressing and mailing to each individual Mason in the State, outside the city of Louisville, a copy of this circular letter. By this method the Home's wants reached every Masonic family in this jurisdiction. He was, at the session of the Grand Lodge in October, 1882, told by numerous brethren that the measure would have been defeated but for this circular having reached the families of our brethren. The wives, mothers and sisters of Masons on December 27, 1881, reminded them "that they must go to Lodge and vote for the maintenance of the widows and orphans." Yet, with all this effort, the assessment was adopted by the exceedingly small majority of 193 votes, as will be seen from the Secretary's report. (See Grand Lodge Proceedings of 1882.)

PRESTON'S NEW HOME

In 1892 it became apparent that the old building in which the Lodge had held its meetings for thirty-three years was becoming unsafe, and steps were taken by the Lodge to secure another home, either by the purchase of a suitable building or the erection of a new one. At the stated meeting of the Lodge, held on February 1, 1893, the Worshipful Master was instructed to call a meeting of the Lodge on February 10th. The membership were notified, and a called meeting, which was numerously attended, was held on the 10th day of February in the Grand Consistory rooms in the Masonic Temple, Fourth and Jefferson streets, and opened on the third degree. The Worshipful Master stated that the Lodge had been called for the purpose of considering the question of building a new hall over the proposed new No. 3 engine house. Brother W. H. Meffert moved that a subscription list be opened and the membership canvassed with the view of ascertaining how much money could be raised for the purpose of building a new hall, the amount subscribed and paid in by the members to be a gift to the Lodge, which motion prevailed. The Worshipful Master appointed W. H. Meffert, H. C. Struss, I. A. Kelly and Joseph F. Laufer a committee to canvass the membership present. A canvass was made and subscriptions secured from seventy members, amounting to $1,350, ranging from the highest, $300, made by Brother Wm. R. Ray, down to $5.

Brother Meffert moved that the Worshipful Master appoint a committee of fifteen to convass the absent membership for subscriptions to the building fund, which motion prevailed.

At the stated meeting, held April 5, 1893, Past Grand Master W. H. Meffert, Chairman of the committee to confer with the city authorities in reference to building the new hall, reported that the committee had succeeded in making a contract with the City of Louisville to build a third story on the new No. 3 engine house, to be the property of Preston Lodge, the Lodge agreeing to pay the sum of $3,500 for same, the Lodge further agreeing to pay for all work on the interior not included in the specifications, and moved that the contract with the city be confirmed and the officers of the Lodge instructed to sign the contract and have the same recorded, which motion prevailed. On motion Brothers W. H. Meffert, John H. Laufer and Paul C. Barth were appointed a committee to direct the building of the new hall and to furnish the same.

At the stated meeting held September 6, 1893, Brother W. H. Meffert, Chairman of the Building Committee, reported the new building would be completed and ready for dedication by October 16, 1893. On motion, October 16th was set apart for the dedication of our new home, and the Secretary instructed to communicate with the Grand Master, requesting the Grand Lodge to dedicate the same.

A Joyous Occasion

With imposing ceremonies Preston Lodge, No. 281, Free and Accepted Masons, took possession of their elegant new quarters at Main and Shelby streets, October 16, 1893, and they were dedicated to Masonry by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky with the imposing ceremonies peculiar to our Ancient Fraternity.

Pursuant to call the Lodge met in called communication in the large hall at Masonic Temple, Fourth and Jefferson streets, at 7:15 p. m., and opened on the third degree. The attendance of members numbered nearly three hundred. The Worshipful Master stated that the Lodge was called for the purpose of receiving the Grand Lodge of Kentucky and escorting them to our new hall for the purpose of dedicating same; after which it was announced that the Grand officers were in waiting. They were escorted into the hall by Past Grand Master Brother W. H. Meffert, who presented them to the Lodge, and they were received with the grand honors of Masonry. The Worshipful Master then requested the officers of the Lodge to surrender their stations to the officers of the Grand Lodge, which was done, Most Worshipful J. Speed Smith, Grand Master, presiding.

A procession was formed and proceeded to the new hall, preceded by the First Regiment Band. Arriving at the hall the Grand Lodge officers entered the Lodge room in procession in the following order: A brother bearing the Great Lights of Masonry, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, bearing vessels containing corn, wine and oil, and after marching around the hall three times the Grand officers took their stations.

The Building Committee then appeared in the center of the Lodge, and through its Chairman, Past Grand Master W. H. Meffert, reported that they had completed their labors, and hoped that the building would meet with the approval of the Grand Master, to which the Grand Master responded, complimenting the Building Committee for the zeal and efficiency that had marked their labors, assuring them that they met the full approval of the Grand Lodge.

After the singing of a psalm, "How Good and How Pleasant it is for Brethren to Dwell in Unity," Past Master Hiram Roberts delivered an address. He began by saying that those present stood in the presence of a work of art, of exquisite harmony and beauty. He then went on to contrast the superb furniture in the new hall with that in the old one, and he congratulated the brethren on the great improvement. Yet the old hall had been beautiful because it contained a soul. He then went on to speak of the principles of Masonry, and the faithful manner in which they had been exemplified in Preston Lodge.

Brother Past Master John H. Laufer then stated that the members of Preston Lodge had contributed with great liberality to the erection and furnishing of the new hall, which would cost about $6,000, but that, as usual in such cases, the cost had exceeded the estimates, and that about $800 would be necessary to pay the debt incurred, and it was desired to raise this amount before the dedication. Thereupon a subscription was taken, and in a short time that amount was raised.

A Great Surprise

A very unusual and notable event then occurred. Deputy Grand Master Staton arose and said that he had a pleasant duty to perform in behalf of Brother Charles C. Vogt. He said he did not know why he was selected for it, unless on account of the pleasant personal relations that had existed between himself and Brother Vogt, and the fact that they had both devoted a great deal of attention to the collection of Masonic books. In behalf of Brother Vogt he was authorized to present to Preston Lodge a library of Masonic literature, containing over 1,000 volumes. He said he had but a scanty opportunity to examine it, but had seen enough to convince him of its inestimable value, and that with such a library in their possession the members of Preston Lodge would have no excuse in the future for want of acquaintance with Masonic literature. The Worshipful Master, Brother Fred Diefenbach, received and returned thanks of the Lodge for the valuable donation.

It was indeed a royal present. The books fill five large and handsome cases. All of the volumes are superbly bound. There is no estimating the value of this library in dollars and cents; it represents the work of twenty years in its collection of over fourteen hundred volumes. Many are rare and valuable books, but in all probability the most rare and valuable volume of all is the original copy of "Anderson's Constitution of Free Masonry," now 191 years old. Its rarity and its moneyed valuation is regarded as being so great by the Lodge that it is kept in the fire-proof safe instead of in a book case, for the reason that if it should be lost or destroyed by fire it could never be replaced. We have had a fac simile cut of the famous illustration and title page of this rare book made and have them in this history.

THE

CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

FREE-MASONS.

CONTAINING THE

Hiſtory, Charges, Regulations, &c.
of that moſt Ancient and Right
Worſhipful *FRATERNITY.*

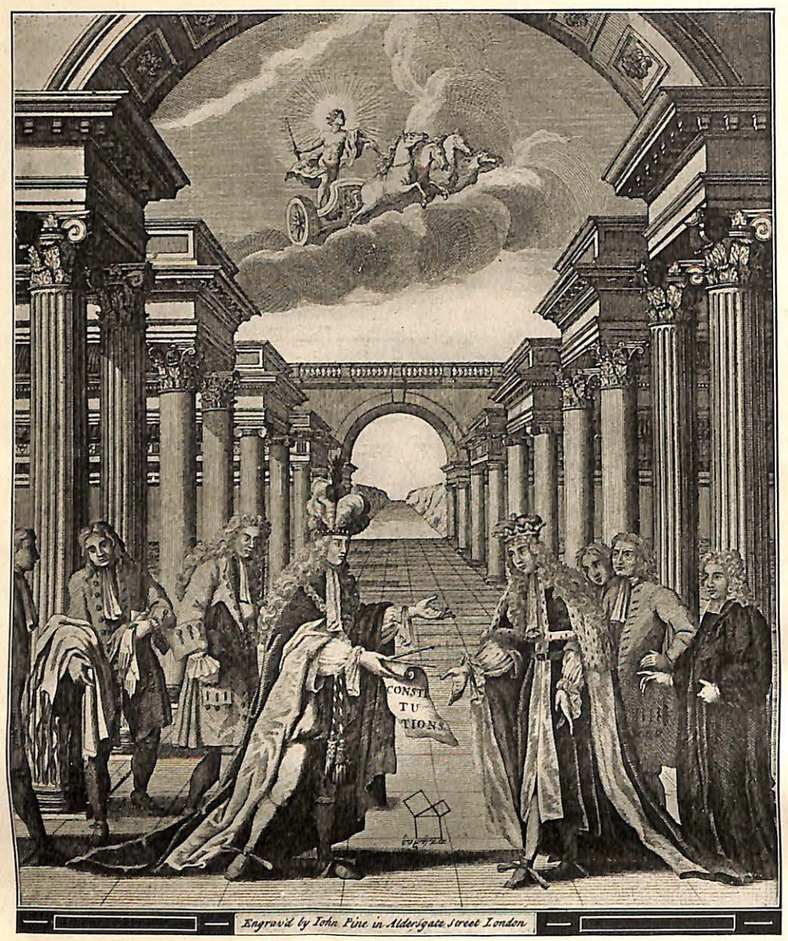
For the Uſe of the LODGES.



LONDON:

Printed by WILLIAM HUNTER, for JOHN SENEX at the *Globe*, and JOHN HOOKE at the *Flower-de-luce* over-againſt *St. Dunſtan's Church*, in *Fleet-ſtreet.*

In the Year of Maſonry —— 5723
Anno Domini —— —— 1723



This illustration represents the presentation of the ancient constitutions, as compiled from the ancient records of the fraternity (and for the first time put in print) by the Rev. Dr. Anderson, the compiler thereof, and dedicated to His Grace, the Duke of Montague, the then Grand Master of England, in the year of Masonry 5723, Anno Domini 1723.

Experts and artists of this city say that this illustration is a work of art of rare merit; that it was engraved on hard copper with a diamond point, and that the artist who did the engraving consumed from six to twelve months in doing so.

The ceremonies of dedicating the new Lodge rooms were then begun. First there was a song by the choir, then an invocation by the Grand Chaplain, after which a procession was formed about the altar, after which the Lodge rooms were dedicated with corn, wine and oil, according to the immemorial usages of the fraternity. At the close of the ceremnoies the Most Worshipful Grand Master proclaimed the Lodge duly dedicated, and said that Preston Lodge, though numerically well down on the roll of Lodges, deserved to rank first. That last year it had donated $2,500 for charity and this year it had given away $1,700, and had paid Grand Lodge dues and Home assessments of nearly $800, and spent upwards of $7,000 for a new hall, which was a most elegant and beautiful temple; and that the Lodge deserves the heartiest congratulations on its magnificent record.

Mayor Tyler, who was present, was called upon and made a few remarks congratulating the Lodge on the magnificent hall they had erected, and expressed his best wishes for its future prosperity, after which the Lodge closed and the Worshipful Master invited all present to partake of refreshments, which had been bountifully provided for our guests, the Grand officers and members of the Lodge, on the lower floor of the building proper.

The Courier-Journal, in its issue of October 17, 1893, after giving an elaborate description of the new building, and the dedication of it, said:

"The new lodge room fully justifies all the praises bestowed upon it. The furniture and appointments are the ne plus ultra of elegance. The carpets, sofas, officers' chairs and altar are superb. The hall is supplied with numerous electric lights, and in one corner is a fine pipe organ. The library and ante-rooms are in keeping with the rest."

Preston Lodge was chartered nearly forty years ago. It has now between eleven hundred and twelve hundred members—the largest membership of any Lodge in the State. It met for many years in a hall which stood on the same site as the present structure, but, having become unsafe, was pulled down and the new structure erected in its place.

PRESENTING THE RESTORED BIBLE

At the stated meeting held February 21, 1894, Past Grand Master W. H. Meffert arose and stated that Mrs. Susan P. Hepburn, sister of our brother, Gen. William Preston, for whom this Lodge is named, had visited and inspected our new hall on the day following its dedication, and seeing that the old Bible, that had been presented by her illustrious brother to the Lodge at its organization, and which had been in use ever since, and on which for about forty years all of the members who had ever been initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason had been obligated, requested the privilege of having it rebound and its tattered leaves restored with the original print. Her request was granted, and now, on behalf of Mrs. Hepburn, he returned to the Lodge the old Bible, with all the tattered leaves restored and handsomely rebound, with a silver plate on its covering bearing the following beautiful inscription:

A SOUVENIR OF THE PAST
FROM
MRS. SUSAN P. HEPBURN,
SISTER
OF OUR ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHER,
GEN. WILLIAM PRESTON,
AFTER WHOM THIS LODGE IS NAMED.

The Worshipful Master, Joseph F. Laufer, received the precious book with appropriate remarks and placed the same upon the altar. On motion Past Masters W. H. Meffert, I. A. Kelly and George Kopmeier were appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions expressing the thanks of Preston Lodge to Mrs. Susan P. Hepburn.

On Tuesday, October 5, 1897, Mrs. Hepburn departed this life and entered into eternal bliss in the Heavenly Father's Kingdom above. The memory of this sweet and noble woman is indissolubly connected with Masonry in the State of Kentucky. Generation after generation shall arise up to call her blessed, the well-beloved patroness of our Masonic Home.

At the stated meeting of the Lodge, held October 6th, the Worshipful Master reported her death, and that he had a floral design made and sent as a loving tribute to her memory, expressing the heartfelt sympathy of the Lodge on her death. This design was a cross and crown mounted on a mat about three by seven feet, covered with ferns, the upper part of the cross being elevated at the right upper corner of the mat about two feet, the foot of it resting on the lower left-hand corner of the mat. It was about six feet in length, and contained 1,300 red carnations. This cross ran diagonally through a large crown made of white roses, and the precious jewels of a crown were represented with various colored flowers. It was said at the time by the cemetery people that it was the most exquisite design that had ever entered Cave Hill.

At the stated meeting of the Lodge, held October 20th, the following communication was read and received and ordered to be spread on the minutes, viz:

"To the Preston Lodge:—Let me thank you for the beautiful compliment you paid my dear aunt, Mrs. Susan Preston Hepburn. You were always dear to her heart. The honor you bestowed by calling your Lodge 'Preston' was a daily delight to her. She took the deepest pride in you always, and I thank you for the token of love given her in death. Most sincerely,

"MRS. MORTON V. JOYCE.
"CAROLINE PRESTON JOYCE.

"829 Second Street, October 9, 1897."

At the stated meeting held November 1, 1893, the following report was, on motion, received and unanimously adopted, and the Secretary instructed to have five engrossed copies of same made, to-wit:

"Louisville, Ky., October 31, 1893.

"To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Preston Lodge, No. 281, Free and Accepted Masons:

"Brethren:—The committee appointed to draft resolutions expressing the thanks of the Lodge to Brother Charles C. Vogt for the library presented to the Lodge, and to Brothers Wm. H. Meffert, John H. Laufer and Paul C. Barth, Building Commitee, for the manner in which they performed their duties, beg leave to submit the following:

"Resolved, That while the intrinsic value of the library presented to this Lodge on the occasion of the dedication of its recently erected temple by Brother Charles C. Vogt is very great, consisting, as it does, of about sixteen hundred volumes, bound in the highest style of the binder's art, and placed in cases of finished workmanship, yet the spirit which prompted the gift renders it one of priceless value to us. Words are inadequate to give expression to the debt of gratitude we owe our brother, not alone for the gift itself, but for the illustration he has given to us and to the Craft of that lofty spirit, which is the object of Masonry to inculcate and foster.

"Resolved, That the thanks of the Lodge are due to the Building Committee for the fidelity and skill with which they discharged the laborious duties imposed upon them. In the plans laid down by them on the trestle board there seem to have been no mistakes. The Lodge room is perfect—perfect in its proportions, in its appointments, in its ornamentation, in its furnishing—perfect down to the minutest detail. Greater praise cannot be bestowed than to say that they have furnished us with a temple worthy of the high and sacred purposes for which a Masonic body holds its meetings.

"Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to have this report properly engrossed and transmit a copy to Brother Vogt and to each member of the Building Committee.

"Fraternally submitted,

"HIRAM ROBERTS,
"ED. MEGLEMRY,
"J. MEFFERT,
"Committee."

OLD MASONS' HOME

At the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, held in October, 1898, Past Grand Master J. Speed Smith (now deceased) submitted a plan for the celebration of the Grand Lodge's centennial in October, 1900, the principal feature of which was to be the establishment of an Old Masons' Home, where the aged, indigent Craftsmen of Kentucky could spend their remaining days in peace, quietude and comfort. Preston Lodge, with her accustomed zeal and generosity, subscribed $1,000, and appointed a committee to canvass the membership and take subscriptions from them to this worthy charity. The amount subscribed by Preston's members aggregated over $3,000, of which amount $1,919 has been paid in, which, together with the Lodge's subscription, makes a total of $2,919 paid to the Directors of the Old Masons' Home. Preston Lodge also fitted up the library in this institution.

This Home for aged Masons was inaugurated and opened up for the reception of inmates in the spring of 1902, in Shelby county, Kentucky, near Shelbyville, and bids fair to be as successful in its results as our Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home in this State.

PORTRAITS

At the stated meeting held January 3, 1894, Brother I. A. Kelly moved that a committee of three be appointed to have a portrait of Past Master W. H. Meffert painted and place the same in the Lodge room. Said motion was adopted, and the Worshipful Master appointed Brothers I. A. Kelly, Charles C. Vogt and George Kopmeier as the committee. At the stated meeting held February 21, 1894, Brother I. A. Kelly, Chairman of the committee, reported that the committee charged with having the portrait of Past Master W. H. Meffert painted in oil had discharged said duty and presented it to the Lodge, and in a touching address referred to the great services rendered to the Lodge and Masonry in general by Brother Meffert.

Brother Meffert arose and thanked the Lodge for the honor conferred, and thanked the brethren for the faith and confidence reposed in him, and believing him worthy to be thus represented in the Lodge room.

On motion the vote of the Lodge was tendered Brother Past Grand Master W. H. Meffert for securing the portrait of Brother William Preston.

MASTER DEGREE CONFERRED BY THE FATHER

At this meeting, held February 21, 1894, one of those rare and interesting scenes in life occurred, wherein the father, W. H. Meffert, presiding as Master, conferred the sublime degree of a Master Mason upon his eldest son, J. W. Meffert. In compliment to father and son the various stations were filled by Past Masters of the Lodge.



CHAS. C. VOGT

A GALA NIGHT

At the annual communication, held December 28, 1896, Past Grand Master W. H. Meffert arose and addressed the Lodge as follows:

"Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren: One of the greatest factors for doing good that exists in the world today is the institution of Freemasonry. There is no estimating the happiness that has been dispensed to suffering and afflicted humanity through her administrations. She has dried the tears of widowhood and assuaged the orphan's pangs of hunger; she has with ready sympathy eased the bed of pain and suffering.

"Preston Lodge is only a small atom in the great Masonic hive, but as busy a bee as can be found in the swarm. She endeavors to practice the sublime principles inculcated by the teachings of the great brotherhood, and, to the extent of her ability, stretches forth the helping hand to those who are in need, and with true brotherly kindness and tender sympathy seeks to ease the burdened heart of its sorrows and rob the sick bed of its suffering and pain, and thus she gives practical evidence of the great principles taught in Masonry.

"The cry ever is 'More Light!' One of the most effective ways to obtain it is from Masonic writings, which set before our eyes in print the thoughts of some of the brightest minds, and are the result of long study and unceasing labor of numberless brethren of past ages, who are linked to us in the bright chain of Mystic Brotherhood, who by their labors have left to us the precious privilege and golden opportunity, if we are not drones in the great Masonic Hive, to constantly and continually receive 'More Light,' if we will but seek it.

"We are so fortunate as to have within our reach in the adjoining room a vast store-house of information. Within the confines of that room are shelves groaning with Masonic literature. You are indeed to be congratulated, my brethren, on having this library at your disposal. There are few Lodges in the world who possess such a treasure. I do not know, my brethren, whether or not you have ever contemplated the long years of labor and expenditure of money that the contents of that room represent. If not, do so now, and realize the energy, the talent and labor of love devoted to its accumulation by one zealous brother, imbued with the true Masonic spirit. Who can tell the vast amount of good that will result to mankind in general, and to us individually, if the members of Preston Lodge will but take advantage of their blessed opportunities. It was presented to you by our beloved brother, Charles C. Vogt, a Mason filled with the true spirit, quiet and unobtrusive in his manners, zealous and true to the Craft, princely in his nature, small in stature, but within his bosom beats a heart large enough to embrace the Universe. To him are we indebted, my brethren, for the blessed opportunities of filling our minds and hearts with the richest gleanings of past ages. It would be impossible for me to clothe in language and convey to him the feelings of gratitude that throb in our hearts. May the Grand Architect of the Universe grant him a long lease of life and happiness here below, and when the sands of his hourglass are spent, call him up within the vails of Heaven and greet him with the plaudit, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou the Eternal Lodge.'

"I have been commissioned by the Lodge to express in some suitable way our gratitude to Brother Vogt for his princely gift, and as a token of our esteem for him as a man and Mason, by some tangible evidence whereby Masons yet unborn may know him. Believing this could not be done in a more appropriate way than by placing his portrait within the library, I have therefore had this oil painting made of him (which is a speaking likeness), which I now present, and ask that it be placed in position within that room."

Brother Vogt, filled with emotion, arose and said: "My brethren, I thank you."

At the same meeting, December 28, 1896, was celebrated the

Secretary's Silver Jubilee

Brother J. Meffert, who has most faithfully served the Lodge for the past quarter of a century as its Secretary, and again re-elected tonight, was taken altogether by surprise by a presentation, which had been arranged for, and of which every member of the Lodge but himself knew, viz: that a substantial token of love and esteem for him as a man and official was to be presented to him.

After the annual election of officers Past Master Hiram Roberts arose and addressed the Lodge, reviewing the workings of the Lodge for the past quarter of a century, speaking of the number of changes that have tagen place in that time, and concluded with the statement that there are two things that have not changed—the earth on which we stand and the Secretary, Brother J. Meffert, who was first elected in 1871. He is still the Secretary, and this being his twenty-fifth anniversary, on behalf of the Lodge Brother Roberts presented Brother Meffert with a chest of beautiful sterling silverware as a token of the Lodge's appreciation and esteem of the valuable services rendered by him.

Brother Meffert feelingly thanked the Lodge for the beautiful testimonial of their friendship and esteem.

The Worshipful Master then invited the brethren to partake of the refreshments provided by the Committee of Arrangements for the occasion.

GRAND LODGE'S TEMPLE

At the stated meeting held October 7, 1903, a communication from the committee on dedicating the new Masonic Temple, inviting this Lodge to participate in the parade and ceremonies of said day, was read and received, and on motion the Lodge decided to participate in the ceremonies. Agreeable to this resolution the Lodge was called on October 20th to assemble in the storeroom of the new Masonic Temple at 1:30 p. m. for the purpose of uniting with our sister Lodges of the city and act as special escort to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and participate in the parade and dedication of the new Masonic Temple. Three hundred and sixty members of Preston Lodge were in line, under the direction of Past Master George Kopmeier as Marshal. The occasion was a memorable one, upward of twenty-five hundred Masons were in line, and the column was an imposing one.

PORTRAIT OF PAST MASTER HIRAM ROBERTS

At the stated meeting held May 5, 1897, the committee appointed to have the portrait painted of our lamented brother, Past Master Hiram Roberts, submitted the following report, which was received, and by a rising vote ordered spread upon the minutes, to-wit:

"To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Preston Lodge, No. 281, Free and Accepted Masons:

"Dear Brethren:—Our dearly beloved worshipful brother, Hiram Roberts, was a man of whom it can be truthfully said that the world is better off by his having lived in it. There is no estimating the great good he did the youth of our city. He was faithful and conscientious in the discharge of his duties as a teacher and as principal of the Training School, which position he held from the organization of the school up to his death, a period of about twenty-six years. His memory will ever be cherished by thousands of men and women to whom he was guide and friend; very many of whom, by his advice and assistance, have attained and hold today positions of honor and trust, and so long as life lasts they will hold him in grateteful remembrance. As a Mason Brother Roberts was all that is implied by the term, 'A True Mason.' He was such by nature; he was born a Mason. He loved Masonry above any other human institution. Preston Lodge was to him one of the brightest exemplars of true Masonry. As he often has said, 'She is imbued with the true spirit, and is filled with the charitable disposition to do her whole duty.' He always considered it a great privilege to be a member of Preston Lodge, was devoted to her, and loved all the brethren. He presided over the Lodge for three years with great ability, for he was an ideal Master. He was ever faithful and conscientious in the discharge of his duties, especially to the sick and the distressed, administering to their wants with the greatest sympathy and tenderness. In the sick room he was sympathetic, gentle and tender as a woman, and brought with him comfort and sunshine whenever he entered. In assisting those who were in need it was done in such a tender and brotherly way that the recipient thereof felt it was his or her due, that it belonged to them, and that he was the Almoner of the brethren; and when he left happiness and sunshine remained and abided with them. While presiding over the Lodge as Master he was kind and considerate. In conferring the degrees, who of us that have been present and have seen and heard him can ever forget the dignity and impressiveness with which it was done? Every word he uttered came from his heart; he felt it all, and never failed to make the proper impression. Those of our brethren who received the degrees from him were imbued with the proper spirit, and will always cherish his memory.

Alas! my brethren, he has gone from among us to his reward. Every member of the Lodge will miss his kindly face and the warm clasp of his hand. Let each of us so live and emulate his virtues, so that when we have passed away it may also be said of us that we were true and consistent Masons.

"Your committee has discharged the duties assigned it and has had this oil portrait of our beloved brother placed in the east of the Lodge, where we can look upon his kindly and well-remembered features and imagine that he is still with us (in spirit) and participating in our labors.

"The Lodge has honored itself by thus perpetuating the memory of our beloved Brother Roberts. Fraternally,

"WM. H. MEFFERT,
"CHAS. C. VOGT,
"Committee."

THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The entertainment, one of the most elaborate ever given in Masonic circles in this city, took place at the New Masonic on January 19, 1904. It was an event long to be remembered. The entire sixth floor, consisting of the Commandery rooms and the large assembly hall, to gether with the Lodge rooms, Chapter room and banquet hall on the fifth floor, were utilized for this mammoth entertainment.

The celebration began at 8 p. m. with a concert in the large assembly hall, which comprised the best musical talent in the city, together with a number of the children of "Our Home."

Program

Quartette—From "A Persian Garden" ..... Liza Lehman
Solo—"Song of Joy" ..... Wagner
Song—"The Crows Are in the Corn" ..... Nine little girls and five boys from the Home
Address—Historical Sketch ..... Past Grand Master W. H. Meffert
Duet—"O, That We Two Were Maying" ..... Balfe
Recitation—"A Troublesome Caller" ..... Lula Burnett, from the Home
Cello Solo—(a) Romanzi ..... Fischer
(b) Spanish Dance ..... Popper
Recitation—"Take a Tater and Wait" ..... Rhea Turner, from the Home
Solo—"Spring Song" ..... Hawley
Address—"Elucidation of Masonry" ..... W. H. Bartholomew, LL. D.
Quartette—"The Miller's Wooing" ..... Eton Faning

There were present over sixteen hundred people, who, with few exceptions, compose the personnel of the Lodge's membership and their ladies.

Brother Meffert, in his address, gave a complete history of the doings of the Lodge during the half century of her existence. He began his address by saying:

"Ladies and Brethren: What is the cause of this numerous coming together of a small portion of the universal Masonic family which has here assembled? Its assembling is brought about by the flight of time to celebrate an event which occurred a half a century ago. On January 19, 1854, there was born into the great Masonic family a promising babe, which was christened 'Preston.'

"It is the purpose of this gathering to celebrate the attainment of this baby's fiftieth year and hear an authentic synoptical history of this child, in whose interest and loving care, persuasive training and spiritual riches have been liberally expended."

Then followed a detailed statement of incidents of facts which are of such length that they cannot be embodied in this limited sketch, but include the following summary: The records show that the Lodge has received from all sources since its organization to the close of the fifty years of its existence, $127,302.17, and has disbursed $121,621.86, in the following manner: Charity, $58,572.75; paid Grand Lodge dues, $9,845.00; paid for building, furniture, etc., contributed by members, $5,084.96; paid for Lodge expenses, $36,829.13; invested in bonds, $5,000.00; contributed to McKinley Monument Fund, $125.00; advanced to Committee on History, $226.00; making in the aggregate as above given, $121,621.86. Assets at this date, $18,546.81.

Concluding, Brother Meffert said:

"Thus, my brethren, a brief synopsis of the past fifty years of the Lodge's history presents facts and incidents full of interest to us all. What a bright record do these years of labor present, and how full of encouragement is the success which has crowned the building of our Mystic Temple, leaving to posterity a legacy of honor and good cheer.

"Masonry, as it is, has accomplished much, but it will bear fruit tenfold if we all unite to inculcate the true principles of our fraternity by practicing charity, and exemplifying by our daily lives a belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

"This child 'Preston' has become a full-grown Masonic man, and the versatility of genius with which he has displayed from time to time is a source of grateful pride and sincere congratulation. It is reasonably certain that the good name which he has won for himself in the past will be as generously sustained in the future, and with the same Masonic assiduity. 'By his fruits he is known.'"

After these exercises the vast multitude was taken in charge by the Reception Committee, consisting of twenty-five members, and the Floor Committee, consisting of fifty members, who ushered them into the Asylum, Chapter and Lodge rooms, where receptions were held and an elaborate menu was daintily served.

The grand ball was inaugurated in the large assembly hall, where two orchestras, alternating, furnished delightful music for "the tripping of the light fantastic toe," indulged in until 3 a. m.

Everything passed off without a hitch, and a more delightful lot of people never assembled anywhere under one roof.

WHO PRESIDED IN THE ORIENTAL CHAIR

The Lodge from its organization up to the present time has had thirty-two Masters, who served as follows: Smith Gregory, who was our first Master, served six years; T. P. Smith, two years; J. E. Beeman, one year; C. Tinney, one year. M. A. Downing, two years; B. C. Watts, two years; Wm. H. Meffert, eight years; Hiram Roberts, three years; I. A. Kelly, two years; H. C. Struss, two years; George Kopmeier, four years; John H. Laufer, three years; L. R. Dickinson, two years; Fred Diefenbach, two years; Fred W. Rugg, two years; Jos. F. Laufer, two years; John Maas, Jr., one year; Charles F. Gans, two years; G eorge C. Weldon, one year; Thomas O. Floyd, one year; F. G. B. Metzner, one year; Wm. B. Trumbo, Jr., one year.

For a period of thirty-five years, successively, Preston Lodge has been most fortunate in having the material at her disposal from which to select her Masters. All of those who have been promoted to and presided in the Oriental chair were well equipped and peculiarly well qualified to fill this most responsible position. They have, all of them, been attentive and dignified officers, good and impressive workers—many of them brilliantly so—discharging their whole duty in caring for and looking after the sick and afflicted with that tender and thoughtful solicitude that is soothing and comforting, and with tender and sympathetic tact when necessity required. Preston's relieving hand, in so far as possible, has relieved the troubled hearts and minds of their burdens, and in that dark and trying hour (which come to us all), when the loving wife and fatherless children are bereft of their protector, to comfort, sympathize and condole with them in that trying hour. To do these things is what Masonry requires of presiding Masters. These brethren have been faithful in the discharge of the high and holy duties entrusted to them.

The Lodge, from its organization to the present time, has had enrolled upon its roster 1,364 members. Its personnel has been composed of statesmen, jurists, ministers of the gospel, judges, lawyers, physicians, builders, salesmen, dentists, manufacturers, merchants, bankers, architects, bookkeepers, clerks, mechanics, public officials, etc., who have met on one common level of equality on Preston's checkered floor.

Summary

Receipts from all sources from January 19, 1854, January 19, 1904	$127,302 17
Disbursements	121,628 86
Total amount paid to the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home by the Lodge and its members	30,943 72
Subscription by the Lodge and its members to the Old Masons' Home	2,919 00
Lodge charity paid members, their widows and orphans	20,694 00
Transient charity paid members of sister Lodges, their widows and orphans	1,849 88
Donations to members, sister Lodges, etc	2,576 15
Total contributed by members (showing their liberality) at different times for different purposes	21,938 37

Membership, 779.

ASSETS.

Cash on hand	$ 5,680 31
City Bonds, par value	4,000 00
Grand Lodge of Kentucky Bonds, par value	1,000 00
Committee on History	225 00
Building, Furniture, etc.	7,641 50
Net Capital	$ 18,546 81

JOYFUL OCCASION

By action of the Lodge an arrangement was made for the membership and their ladies to assemble in the beautiful quarters of De Molay Commandery, No. 12, K. T., on the evening of June 15, 1911, to be entertained with a concert, refreshments and dancing, and to witness the presentation of a Past Master's jewel to each of the nineteen living Past Masters of Preston Lodge. More than one thousand people participated in the festivities of the evening, which began with a concert in the asylum, after which the jewels were presented by Brother W. H. Bartholomew, who spoke as follows:

"My Dear Brethren:—Your speaker upon this interesting occasion desires first of all to acknowledge his high appreciation of the honors which your brotherly partiality has bestowed upon him.

"The history of Preston Lodge, No. 281, Free and Accepted Masons, is a splendid one. It covers three epochs, namely, the twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries, and this, the presentation of Past Masters' jewels to her Past Masters, and in the fitting ceremonies of each your speaker has been called upon to take a prominent part.

"The interim from the beginning of the existence of Preston Lodge until this hour has been full of Masonic deeds, springing out of hearts full of sympathy and lives of service, and her Masters, of whom she is justly proud, have contributed an unusually large share.

"Preston Lodge is now and always has been a loyal supporter of Masonic traditions. The landmarks of Masonry have been carefully preserved and exactly transmitted to her sons. How accurately they have learned the lessons which their mother has taught them and the faithfulness with which they have practiced them will be disclosed by a recital of the generous deeds heartily and unselfishly performed in behalf of helpless orphans and destitute widows of Master Masons.

"The Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home of Kentucky has been, and is, the recipient of the financial and moral support of Preston Lodge. In addition to the pro rata support fixed by the Grand Lodge of the State, this Lodge annually lifts a voluntary contribution from each of her members which nets more than a thousand dollars, which is placed at the disposal of the Board of Directors of that eminently useful institution.

"In addition to this, Preston Lodge, regardless of expense, fitted up an Infirmary for the proper care of the sick of the Widows and Orphans' Home. It is modern in every detail, and it will ever stand as a monument to the tender and sympathetic heart of the Lodge.

"Recently this Lodge has taken a lively interest in the Old Masons' Home, near Shelbyville, Ky., where aged Masons may find a home in which pleasantly to spend their declining years.

"What has made possible this brilliant record? Chiefly, the faithful services of our Masters. They have enforced the doctrines of Masonry by precept and example, and have and now, by this service, we bestow upon them merited honor. How much time they have freely given and how many anxious moments they have experienced in rendering this invaluable service only the Book of Life will disclose.

"And now, my brethren and friends, having presented this preamble, in which the Masonic work of this Lodge is briefly stated, it now seems eminently fitting that an effort should be made to discover the various agencies that have made possible this glorious fruitage.

"Every Lodge of Masons must have as a part of its furniture the letter G and the Holy Bible. These constitute the granite foundation upon which every Masonic life must be builded. Faith in God is a prerequisite for entrance into a Masonic Lodge. Masonry is a moral institution, and it walks side by side with the church only as such. Therefore, the Mason who seeks salvation from sin in her ordinances will be hopelessly deceived. Its ritual and tenets provide nothing for the remission of man's sin; that belongs exclusively to the church. However, it may be truthfully said that the church may learn some useful lessons from Masonry in reference to the moral side of Christianity.

"The church and Masonry both agree that morality must rest in the authority of God, and that God's standards are the only standards of moral conduct among men. In connection with and inseparable from this, the Craft are taught that the Bible is God's inestimable gift to man, and that it is the rule and guide of their faith and practice. Moral lines that are built upon such a foundation will become symmetrical, strong and effective, leaving the influences of their honors to the world and their blessed spiritual natures to God.

"At the outset of Masonic life the candidate who seeks its privileges and service is taught the dignity of moral excellence in the beautiful and touching symbolism of the White Apron:—

" 'My brother, I now present to you this lamb skin, or white leather apron; it is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; it is more ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter, or any other order that could be conferred upon you at this or any future period by any one, be he King, Prince or Potentate, unless he were a Mason, and then within a just and legally constituted Lodge of such.

" 'Let its pure and spotless surface be to you an ever-present reminder of purity of life and rectitude of conduct, a never-ending argument for nobler deeds and purer motives; and when at last your weary feet shall have reached the end of their toilsome journey, and from your grasp shall drop the working tools of a busy life, may the record of your life and conduct be as pure and spotless as this fair emblem which I place in your hands tonight.

" 'Take it and wear it with credit to yourself and honor to the fraternity.'

"As the dutiful child who lies on the bosom of its mother and strains its ears to catch the precious words that fall from her loving lips, so does the aspirant take renewed courage to be and to do, according to her counsel and example. Trusting faith takes possession of the soul, and the grateful affections of the heart are uttered aloud in the words of trust and victory:

" 'Because you trusted I have achieved,
Nor could I fail when you believed;
Your faith has built my life anew—
I seek the heights because of you.
Because of you I have emerged
From shifting sands, of dross been purged;
My heart and soul are clean and true—
Dear love, I live because of you.'

"Vir man and vir strength were words frequently used together by the Romans. They recognized man as combining marvelous energies of power. Chiefly physical and intellectual. But Masonry discovers a new energy in man, by which he reaches his true and rightful position of strength and glory. The Romans made light and knowledge the end of life, but Masonry uses these as the means of character, which is the true glory of man. 'Not by might nor by power, but by my word, said the Lord,' is the slogan of the true Mason.

" 'He that hath clean hands and stainless heart,
He that in climbing bore no brother down,
Whose vision saw not God and man apart—
He has not failed! To him the victor's crown.'

"The mission of Masonry in the world is to encourage her sons to be right and to do right. When her children are kind, obliging and forgiving to each other her great heart swells with ecstatic joy. She exhorts her followers to lay hold upon every opportunity to be helpful and useful, and that today and not tomorrow is the time for loving service. Love is the inspiring principle—love to God and love to man. Kind words should be said and gracious deeds performed while your brother may be inspired to take courage by them.

" 'If some flowers you would give,
Give them now;
While your friend on earth doth live,
Give them now.

There are those who beauty crave;
Do not all your blossoms save
For adornment of some grave—
Give them now.'

" 'What worth is eulogy's blandest breath,
When spoken in ears that are hushed in death?
No! No! If you have but a word of cheer,
Speak it while I am alive to hear.'

"And now, my brethren, Past Masters of Preston Lodge, No. 281, this meeting is called for the purpose of giving to you, while you are in life, our expressions of grateful thanks for what you are and what you have been, in service, to our common Masonic mother. That you have done faithful and conscientious work, the fruitage of your labors clearly shows. Peace and harmony, accompanied by a sweet fellowship, reign amongst us. Your works of faith and labors of love shall linger in our hearts as an inspiring benediction.

"But the members of Preston Lodge have not only empowered me to utter these words of heartfelt appreciation for the services which you have so cheerfully and honorably given to this Lodge, but also to present to each of you a Past Master's jewel, as a tangible expression of the sentiments of our hearts, which you may show with commendable pride to your families and friends.

"When, in the future, you look upon these beautiful jewels, may your memories bring vividly before you two minionistic words—Love and Service—our love for you and your service for us, by the mystic union of which our Lodge has reached a position of influence and honor among the sisters of our Craft.

"May the richest benedictions of our Heavenly Father rest upon and abide with each of you, for ever and ever. Amen."

After the presentation the assembly arose and wended their way to the large drill hall, where refreshments were served and dancing was indulged in. It proved to be one of those joyous occasions of Preston's where everybody felt it was good to be there.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Of Preston Lodge No. 281, F. & A. M., Held at the Asylum of De Molay Comnandery, No. 12, K.T., Monday January, 19, 1914

PROGRAM—PART I.

Music ..... Manual Training High School Orchestra
Invocation ..... Brother Charles A. Wilson, D. D.
Vocal Solo—"The Bird and the Rose" ..... Elsie Harrock
Brother Albert Bachman.
Vocal Solo—"Sleet On" ..... C. Mawson-Marks
Brother Carl Bachman.
Address ..... Brother James P. Gregory
Music ..... Manual Training High School Orchestra

PART II.

Preston Lodge Minstrels—Members: Brothers Duke D. Sills, Al. Settlemeyer, Sherman Vogt, Walter H. Dauenhauer, Wm. Johnson, Frank Genovely, Oscar Brockman, James F. Toy, Horace E. Downs, Max Brown, E. P. Allen, L. B. Dickinson; George Uhl, accompanist.

PART III.

Dancing and Refreshments.

"Now is the time, ah, friend, no longer wait
To scatter loving smiles and words of cheer
To those around whose lives are now so dear;
They may not need you in the coming year—
Now is the time."

Paper ..... "History of Preston Lodge, No. 281, for the Decade, 1904 to 1914"
By Brother Wm. H. Bartholomew.

This paper is a succinct supplement to the splendid paper of Past Grand Master William H. Meffert, in which he gave a history of the brilliant record of Preston Lodge for the fifty years of its existence.

The salient facts of the decade from 1904 to 1914 are herewith given because they impressively disclose the spirit and activity of the Lodge as a Masonic factor for the betterment of mankind, especially those of its own household:

Receipts for sixty years	$217,709 63
Paid out for sixty years	215,849 00
Balance	$ 1,860 63

Salient Facts For This Decade

Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home	$ 20,096 40
Old Masons' Home	2,187 00
Grand Lodge Dues	9,913 00
Donations to members, their widows and transient charity	10,612 34
Lodge expenses	34,473 72
Receipts for ten years	90,407 46
Expenditures	93,849 66

These are conspicuous items only, but they show that more than two-thirds of 66 2-3 per cent. of the funds have been transmuted into the means by which the widow's tears have been dried, the orphan's heart has been comforted, and the burdens of afflicted and otherwise distressed brethren have been lifted:

Our assets at this date:

Balance (December 26, 1913)	$ 1,860 63
City of Louisville Bonds	9,000 00
Grand Lodge Bonds	1,000 00
Louisville & Nashville Railroad Bonds	2,000 00
Louisville City Railway Bonds	2,000 00
Louisville Lighting Company Bonds ($12,000.00)	26,513 66
Building and furniture	8,424 37
Lodge History, $2 per volume	330 00
Total	$37,128 66

Therefore, it seems eminently just to infer that the decade from 1904 to 1914 is the best in the history of this Lodge. How productive these years have been and how rich the fruitage! This is the character of service which enriches both the giver and the gift.

MASTERS, 1904-1914

Brother W. B. Trumbo, Jr., 1904-1905.
Brother Charles L. Roberts, 1906.
Brother August R. Baumer, 1909.
Brother Edward C. Edinger, 1910.
Brother Fred Herrmann, 1911.
Brother Robert L. Browning, 1912.
Brother Winfield L. Waters, 1913.
Brother William V. Weber, 1914.

Our Past Masters have been the leading spirits in Masonic doctrine, and their timely advice and Masonic example have inspired their co-workers to become active and effective energies in accomplishing the work suggested by the designs drawn upon the Masonic trestle board. He leads best who obeys best, is a Masonic maxim, and its practice secures that hearty co-operation that overcomes all obstacles. It is this spirit of fraternal fellowship in Masonic designs and Masonic execution of the same that has produced the unparalleled record of the past ten years of Preston Lodge.

Jewels to Past Masters

God forbid that as members of Preston Lodge we should have any selfish pride for any Masonic service that we render, but we may justly rejoice that at various times we have inaugurated plans and acts worthy of Masonic imitation. We gave to the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home the first subscription, the first free-will offering, and the first decorative window. Hence we are either following or setting an example under the guidance and uplift of Masonic ideals.

June 15, 1911, was a red-letter day in the calendar of Preston Lodge. It was set apart for the purpose of giving expression of the high esteem in which our Past Masters are held, and to present to them beautiful jewels symbolic of the high rank attained by them in Masonic service.

The exercises took place in the beautiful asylum of De Molay Commandery, and in the presence of a large and responsive audience of brethren and friends of Preston Lodge.

The master of ceremonies conducted the Past Masters of the Lodge to the east and arranged them in a semi-circle. All of the living Past Masters were present except one, Brother Fred Herrmann, but he received his jewel in the Lodge room.

"Charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul."

And so it is, these Masters have won their way into our affections, and their names and deeds are therein enshrined. "Their brows are bound with victorious wreaths" and their names are inscribed upon our roll of fame. And wherever and whenever the name of Preston Lodge is called, this shall be told as a memorial to their personal worth, good advice and consistent Masonic lives.

The history of this decade, my brethren, would be very incomplete without the mention of our grateful appreciation of the hearty co-operation of our mothers, sisters and sweethearts in every measure that tends to purity and unity in Masonic life. "Next to God we are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth having." These good women in our social functions

have not only charmed us by their personal characters, but beyond this by that which is more precious than satires that "they always open their mouths with wisdom, and in their tongues is the law of kindness." A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

"O woman! lovely woman! Nature made thee
To temper man; we had been brutes without you.
Angels are painted all fair, to look like you;
There's in you all that we believe of heaven—
Amazing brightness, purity and truth,
Eternal joy, and everlasting love."

Today is the sixtieth birthday of our mother in Masonry, Preston Lodge, No. 281. What a rich and inspiring heritage has come to us through the self-sacrifice and service of our fathers during six decades of years! What a weighty responsibility is ours! But let us, like good men and true, accept it; and in our efforts to sustain this splendid record of these years, let us leave out of our calendar all yesterdays and tomorrows, and exalt our only today as the time for service. Let us seek opportunities to honor our Masonic mother by aiding our brethren. If our brother needs our help, let us not pass by on the other side, but let us fly to his relief, pour the oil of sympathy into his heart, put him on our beast, take him to the inn and see that he is properly cared for.

"If the motto says 'Smile' and you carry a frown,
'Do it now' and you linger and wait;
If the motto says 'Help' and you trample men down,
If the motto says 'Love' and you hate,
You won't get away with the mottos you stall,
For truth will come forth with a bounce;
It isn't the motto that hangs on the wall,
But the motto you live, that counts."

"When I have time, so many things I'll do
To make life happier and more fair
For those whose lives are crowded full of care;
I'll help to lift them up from their despair—
When I have time.

"When I have time the friend I love so well
Shall know no more these weary, toiling days;
I'll lead his feet in pleasant parts always,
And cheer his heart with sweetest words of praise—
When I have time.

"When you have time the friend you love so dear
May be beyond the reach of your intent;
May never know that you so kindly meant
To fill his life with ever-sweet content—
When you had time.

"Now is the time, ah, friend, no longer wait
To scatter loving smiles and words of cheer
To those around whose lives are now so dear;
They may not need you in the coming year—
Now is the time."

There has been enrolled on Preston's roster upward of 2,000 members during the sixty years of her existence.

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