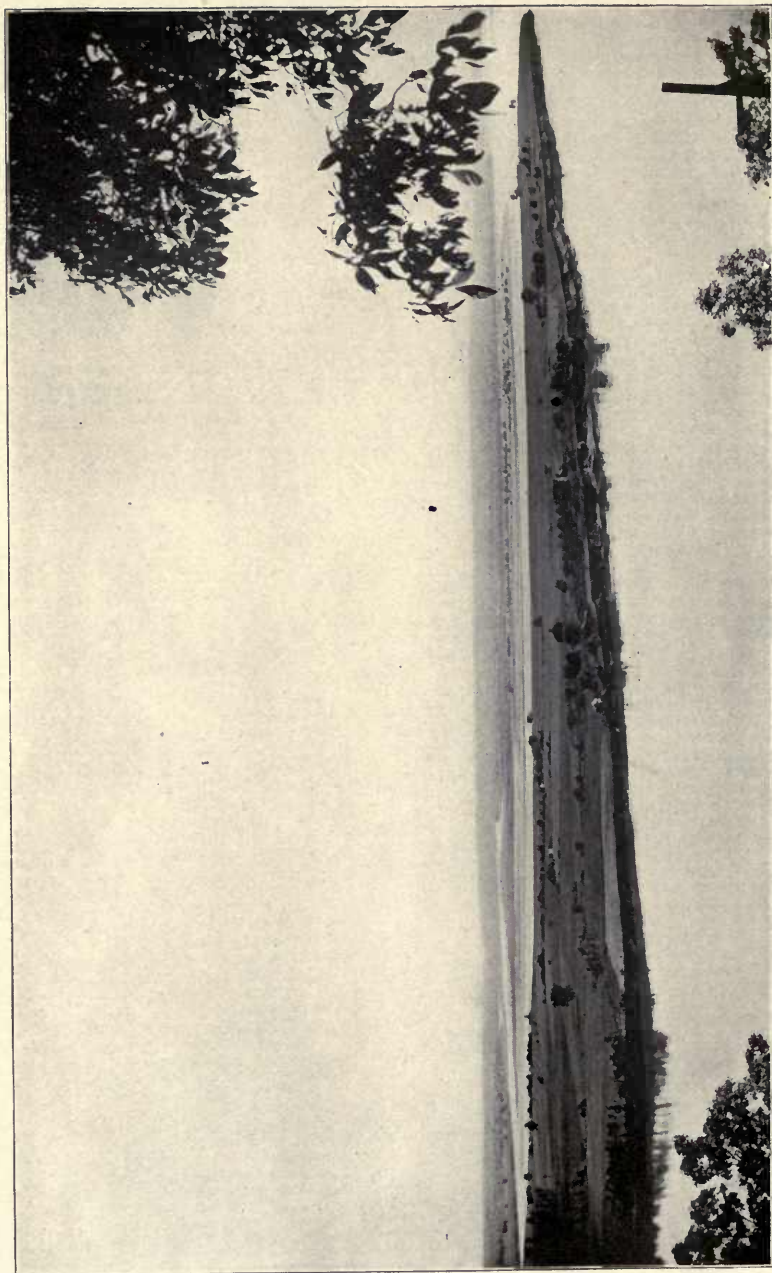


History of
Freemasonry
in Illinois

GENERAL
JOHN
CORSON
SMITH



KASKASKIA, AUGUST 20, 1902.

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN ILLINOIS

1804-1829

ORGANIZATION AND PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF "THE GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS," 1822-1828

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF THE PREMIER GRAND MASTER, SHADRACH BOND, THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF KASKASKIA

ORGANIZATION AND MINUTES OF THE FIRST LODGE, "THE WESTERN STAR LODGE, No. 107," 1804-1829

BY

GENERAL JOHN CORSON SMITH

PAST GRAND MASTER

HISTORICALLY ILLUSTRATED

CHICAGO:
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1903

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THIS VOLUME OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY
IN THE PRAIRIE STATE IS

FRATERNALLY DEDICATED

TO

BROTHER GEORGE MAYHEW MOULTON,
M. W. GRAND MASTER,

THE R. W. OFFICERS AND BRETHREN

OF THE

“GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.”

THE BRETHREN WHOM THE AUTHOR MASONICALLY LOVES.

350287

GEO. M. MOULTON
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS



CHICAGO, ILL., Jan., 16, 1903.

Bro. John Corson Smith,
Past M.W. Grand Master,
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Brother:-

It gives me pleasure to know that you are to reproduce the records of the first Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. established in Illinois, and thus preserve this interesting portion of the History of Ancient Craft Masonry in this State. Your idea of binding the volume identical in size with Proceedings of our M.W. Grand Lodge, is a happy thought. Every thoughtful Mason and lover of the craft should be supplied with a copy of your publication, feeling certain that they will feel well paid for its perusal, and gratified with its possession for future reference.

Fraternally yours,

GEO. M. MOULTON

Grand Master.

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PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON.

On the upper waters of Puget Sound, in the northwest corner of the State of Washington, are two enterprising little cities, known as the twin cities of Fairhaven and Whatcom. So close are these two corporations that the same street frequently forms the boundary of each, and it is often difficult to tell when you pass out of one city into the other.

During a recent visit to my son Robert, residing in Fairhaven, I was informed of the residence in Whatcom of the son of a former Governor of Illinois. Accompanied by Brother W. C. Willox of that city, I paid him a visit, and found to my surprise that the venerable gentleman was Benjamin N. Bond, the only living child of Shadrach Bond, the first Governor and the first Grand Master of Freemasons in the State of Illinois. The Doctor, for he is a regular practicing physician, and a soldier, having served in the Union army as surgeon of the 27th Regiment, Missouri Infantry Volunteers, in the War of 1861-5, gave me so much information of his father that was new that I eagerly gathered the same, and now put it in readable form for my brethren.

Not only did I learn much of interest relating to the early history of Illinois and of Governor Bond, but I found in the Doctor's possession a life-size portrait of his father, painted by that great American portrait painter, Gilbert Charles Stuart, who gave to the world the standard likeness of Brother General George Washington. The canvas is badly damaged, but the portrait is well preserved,

and I had two photographs taken of it, the best one of which is herewith reproduced. The painting was executed in 1808, during a visit East of the Governor, then Captain Shadrach Bond, and was always recognized by the family as a truthful likeness. I think myself fortunate in having secured so good a copy of this excellent portrait.

Doctor Bond is also a Freemason, having received the degrees in Chester Lodge, No. 72, City of Chester, Illinois, and his sons are members of the Lodge in Whatcom.

The students of the history of Illinois know that Shadrach Bond was the first Governor of the new State, that he was elected Governor in 1818, serving his full four years and until his successor was elected and inaugurated. That he was also the first Grand Master of Freemasons is known to but a few members of the craft, and so little is known of that early Grand Lodge, and its records are so rare that even the Masonic student may be excused when he pleads ignorance of its history. Few are the Freemasons, even in Illinois, who know there was ever any other Grand Lodge than the present one, and that the first Governor of the State was also the first Grand Master of Freemasons in this great commonwealth.

After extended research in the archives of other Grand Lodges, I have found copies of the only proceedings ever written or published by Grand Lodge, which are here reproduced in full, with electro *fac-similes* of the title pages of each. A brief biography of Grand Master Bond also appears; and the most interesting of the minutes the history of "The Western Star Lodge, No. 107," of Kaskaskia, the first Lodge instituted in the Illinois country, the charter for which came from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

GOVERNOR SHADRACH BOND.

PREMIER GRAND MASTER.

Governor Shadrach Bond came of a well-known Maryland family, owning large estates and many negro slaves. He was born in the City of Frederick, Maryland, April 9, 1775, and came to the Illinois country, then in the Northwest Territory, in 1791, with Col. George Rogers Clark, the heroic commander who defeated the English and captured Kaskaskia, July 4, 1778, as he did Vincennes one year later.

Governor Bond's first home was built near Murdoch Lake, in what is now Monroe County, where he resided until removing to Kaskaskia in 1794, where he afterwards erected a brick dwelling with material brought in flat-boats from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Although a young man when he came to the Illinois country, Governor Bond took an active part in all public affairs, and though a farmer and devoted to the cultivation of his lands he found time to hold many responsible offices.

He was a member of the Indiana Territorial legislature, and the first delegate to Congress from the Territory of Illinois, resigning his seat in 1814 to accept appointment as Receiver of Public Moneys at Kaskaskia. It was while in Congress he introduced and passed the first preemption bill which was as follows:

"Pre-emption. A bill to give the right of to certain purchasers of lands in Illinois Territory.

Reported Monday, December 28, 1812, and ordered to 3rd reading."

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 1, 1813.

"Resolved, That such part of the laws for the sale of

public lands as allow a credit on part of the purchase money be repealed; and that the price at which lands shall be offered in future shall be one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

“Resolved, That in future sales, a portion of the public lands be offered in tracts of eighty acres.

“Resolved, That two years be given in addition to the time allowed by law to the purchasers of public lands, whose time of payment shall have or may expire on or before the first day of January, 1814, on condition that all the interest that has accrued or may accrue on or before the 18th day of March next, shall be paid at that day, and the interest that may become due thereafter shall be paid at the day on which the time, according to existing laws, shall expire for making payments.”

He was also for many years a Captain in the military forces, serving against the Indians and in the War of 1812. Elected Governor in 1818 without opposition, he served his four years, and for many years thereafter he was the United States Register of the Land Office at Kaskaskia. In person soldierly, complexion dark, hair black and eyes hazel. In middle age he weighed 200 pounds. Of jovial disposition, thoroughly honest, unostentatious and popular with all the people, as attested in his election to the Governorship of the new State. Though not a college graduate he had received, for those days, a good English education. One of his successors (Governor Thomas Ford) wrote of him as follows:

“Governor Bond was a substantial farmer-like man, of strong, plain, common sense, with but little pretensions to learning or general information. He was a well-made,



GOVERNOR SHADRACH BOND, 1808,
OUR PREMIER GRAND MASTER.

well-set, sturdy gentleman, and what is remarkable at this day, his first message to the legislature contains a strong recommendation in favor of the Illinois and Michigan Canal."

The following is the message referred to, which we think worthy of reproduction. That part referring to the Canal we put in *italics* to emphasize the broad and far-seeing vision of Gov. Bond, whose message of 1818 is bearing fruit in the drainage and ship canal of 1903. We only regret that the Governor's Address as Grand Master cannot be found so as to be placed side by side with this state paper. In reading the conclusion of the message the freemason cannot fail to note how like to a Masonic charge and readily fancy the Governor addressing his own Grand Lodge.

We quote from the Journal of the

"FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

begun and held in the Town of Kaskaskia, on Monday, the fifth day of October, A. D. 1818.

* * * * *

Tuesday, October 6, 1818.

The Senate in pursuance to the request of the House of Representatives to attend in the Representative Hall, at 12 o'clock to-day; attended, at which time and place the Governor and Lieutenant Governor appeared and took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, and the oath of office.

The Governor then read the following message:

Fellow Citizens of the Senate,

And of the House of Representatives.

Intrusted by the people with the executive power of

the State, I enter upon the duties assigned me deeply impressed with the sense of the many obligations I am under for this evidence of the public confidence. Whilst animated and encouraged with the idea that my past conduct has been such as in the opinion of my fellow citizens to merit the office to which I have been elected, I feel oppressed and embarrassed with the reflection, that so much has been confided to such feeble hands. Associated, however, with the General Assembly, in the discharge of the most important duties, I confidently rely upon the information and support to be derived from your coöperation. The people of the State have formed a Constitution, by which they have secured to themselves the blessings of liberty and of free government. If the principles which adorn that instrument are cherished and kept alive, the future fortune of the State cannot fail to be prosperous and happy. To the preservation of principles so sacred the influence of your example and the skilful exercise of the powers with which you are vested will greatly contribute. If the minds of any of us have heretofore been infected with a spirit of division which had not its foundation in a difference of principle, if the conduct of any has been hitherto influenced by unmerited partiality or unjust resentment, let it be remembered that the period has now arrived when the public good and public justice imperiously require the extinguishment of that spirit, and the pursuance of a course of conduct that will do justice and do good.

Having made these observations, I proceed to give you such information of the state of the government as is in my possession, and respectfully to recommend to your consideration the adoption of some of these measures, which appear to me to be the most advisable.

The Treasury will be found to be in a state of present embarrassment, when the reports of the proper officers are laid before you; the credit of the State is consequently impaired; it is believed, however, with a proper arrangement of the grants and donations which have been made by the Congress of the United States, that in changing the system of taxation, which must necessarily be done, the burden of taxes upon individuals need not be increased.

It is due to the claimants and the public interest requires that claims now due and unpaid at the Treasury should be speedily satisfied; for this purpose I recommend the propriety of authorizing by law the borrowing on the credit of the State an amount of money sufficient to answer those demands, at such a rate of interest, and upon such conditions as the Legislature shall prescribe.

The code of laws adopted and enacted under the territorial government require a thorough revision; some of those laws will be found illy adopted to our change of condition, whilst others will doubtless be expunged as useless and inapplicable. And upon this subject permit me to remark that in many cases the punishment for crimes is unnecessarily severe. This degree of severity has no doubt been occasioned in some measure by the want of jails and suitable places of confinement. I therefore recommend the passage of a law making it obligatory upon the several counties to build strong, substantial prisons. If the prospect in our finances will justify the measure, the erection of a state prison, to confine the more heinous offenders, wherein the convict will be punished by confinement, at the same time work out the expenses thereof, will serve the purposes of punishment, and at no distant period produce a revenue to the State.

The subject of education, the means for which have been so amply provided by the bounty of the general government, cannot fail to engross your serious attention. It would be well to provide for the appointment or election of trustees in each township sufficiently populated, and empower them to lease, for limited periods, the section reserved and granted for the use of schools within the same, requiring them to appropriate the rents arising therefrom to such use and in the manner to be prescribed by law. The townships of land which have been granted to the State for the use of a seminary of learning, cannot, it is believed, be so disposed of at present as to authorize the passage of a law to commence the undertaking; but at least a part of them may be leased, and the rents arising therefrom may be laid up or vested in some productive fund, as a sacred deposit, to be hereafter appropriated to the object for which the grants were made; such a course will render these lands productive, and when the period shall arrive at which it may be advisable to sell them, they will be extensively improved and of great value. Those donations, together with the three per cent upon the net proceeds arising from the sale of public lands within the State, which has been appropriated for similar purposes, with proper arrangement will create a fund sufficiently large to educate the children of the State to the remotest period of time. It is our imperious duty, for the faithful performance of which we are answerable to God and our country, to watch over this interesting subject. No employment can be more engaging than that of husbanding those resources which will spread through all classes of our fellow citizens the means of wisdom and of knowledge, which in the freedom of our institutions will make the child of the poorest parent a useful member of

society, and an ornament to his country. And which by enlightening the mind will lead to new discoveries in the arts, and to new improvements in the pursuit of agriculture, commerce and manufactures.

Some provisions by law authorizing the leasing of the Salt Springs, and the lands granted for the use of the same, will be necessary, and I have no doubt that an assignment of the contract of the lease which was entered into by the present lessees of the Ohio Saline and the Government of the United States, would be readily made to the State upon application. A valuable saline has been discovered on Shoal Creek, in the county of Bond, and but a single section of land has been reserved for its use. If a larger grant of wood land contiguous thereto could be procured it would be found highly advantageous.

Possessed of a country not surpassed for the fertility of its soil, intersected and almost surrounded by lakes and rivers convenient for navigation, it is much to be regretted that the means requisite for the commencement of any internal improvement of consequence are not in our possession. The money which has been appropriated, and which is to be disbursed under the direction of Congress, in making roads leading to the State would go far to improve the navigation of our water courses; in a few years it is believed that fund will accumulate to an amount sufficient to defray the expenses of cutting a canal to connect the waters of Lake Michigan and the Illinois river. The advantages resulting from such a work are too obvious to require comment. By means thereof, together with the canal connecting the waters of Lake Erie and Hudson river, which is already in a state of great forwardness, a water communication from our very doors will be opened to the Atlantic by way of the Lakes. I therefore recom-

mend an early application to the Congress of the United States, to procure such a change in the disposition of that land as to make it applicable to the furtherance of so desirable a purpose. Such a measure is desirable in a political as well as a commercial point of view. The bond of union between the eastern and western states will be strengthened by constant intercourse and common interest.

Your duties at the present session will be various and extensive, among which the jurisdiction to be assigned to the courts established by the Constitution, and the system of practice to be pursued therein. The organization of the militia, and the appointment of public officers of the State, and the definition of their respective powers and duties are all important.

Before I conclude permit me to congratulate you, and through you, my fellow citizens at large, upon the happy change in our form of government. May your conduct be characterized by that wisdom, prudence and unanimity which will preserve our liberties inviolate, and raise the character of our beautiful State. And may that Almighty Being from whose goodness and bounty all the blessings we enjoy have emanated be present in your councils, and bless the measures of your adoption.

Shadrach Bond.

Nowhere can better evidence be found of the manly character of Governor Bond than in his duel with Rice Jones in 1808. Political enmities ran high in those days in Illinois, and the people were divided on the question of the formation of the new territory. For some serious personal offense, as was then the custom, Bond challenged and Jones accepted. The meet was on an



STATE MONUMENT TO GOVERNOR SHADRACH BOND,
EVERGREEN CEMETERY, CHESTER, ILLINOIS.

island in the Mississippi River near Kaskaskia, and when in position, but before the command "fire" was given, the pistol of Mr. Jones was discharged. Dr. James Dunlap, the Governor's second, claimed that it was then Bond's shot, but the Governor believing the discharge accidental refused to fire, and there the matter ended as to Bond and Jones. But not so with Mr. Dunlap, between whom and Rice Jones there arose a bitter quarrel, resulting in Dunlap killing Jones on the streets of Kaskaskia at a later day. Popular as was Governor Bond with all classes, I have often wondered that he received no other political recognition than a land office after his four years successful administration of the affairs of the new State. That his statesmanship was broad and constructive is evidenced in his having secured for the early settlers in the Territory the passage of the first pre-emption law while a delegate in Congress in 1813, and his recommendation for the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in his first message, in 1818, to the legislature as Governor. He seems, however, to have committed an unpardonable sin and put himself out of touch with the statesmen of that day, who were largely pro-slavery, in having freed the six hundred slaves left him in Maryland by his father.

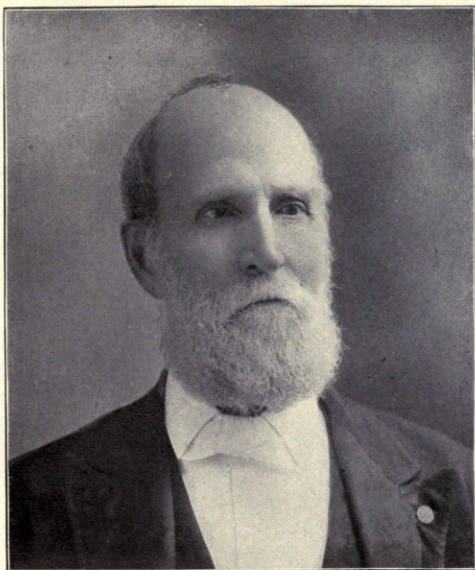
Governor Bond married a Miss Achsah Bond, of Baltimore, Maryland, November 27, 1810. She was a distant relative and of the Fell family of that city. The marriage was solemnized at Nashville, Tennessee, where Miss Bond was visiting. As the father of each was dead and the estates were being settled, it was thought best to close them before marriage, as they would then be uninfluenced by mutual interests.

The assets of each estate showed large numbers of slaves. Miss Bond sold her slaves, while the Governor—then Captain—manumitted his six hundred, and gave bond that they

would be self-sustaining and "good niggers," as the laws of Maryland required. When I asked the doctor if this was done before marriage, he smiling said: "Oh, yes! Father had to free his slaves before he married, as mother would not have let him do so, but would have sold them, same as she did her own."

Governor Shadrach Bond died in Kaskaskia, Illinois, April 13, 1832. This is two years later than the biographies give it. But it is the Bible record which I have seen. His wife, Achsah Bond, was born October 13, 1786, in the City of Hagerstown, Maryland, and died at Kaskaskia, Illinois, February 29, 1844. They were each buried in the family cemetery on their farm at Kaskaskia, and there rested until the waters of the Mississippi began to cut across and wash away the lands upon which stood the first capital of our State and thence into the Kaskaskia River. The remains of the Governor and his wife were then taken up, removed to Evergreen Cemetery, Chester Illinois, some ten miles distant, and there now repose beneath a granite monument erected to their memory by the State of Illinois.

Seven children blessed this union—two of whom died in youth, and the others: Julia Rachel married Francis Swanwick, of Chester, where she died of cholera, June 25, 1849, leaving three children; Mary Achsah married Joseph B. Holmes, of Chester, and died in that city, July 19, 1878, leaving five sons and two daughters; Thomas Shadrach, unmarried, died in Chester, June 29, 1849; Isabella Fell married James P. Craig, of Chester, and died in that city, January 13, 1860, leaving five children; Benjamin Nicodemus, now the only living child of the Governor, resides in Whatcom, Washington, was born September 17, 1826, married Miss Mary Esther Jones, of Chester, June 18, 1846, and they have five children living.



DOCTOR BRO. BENJAMIN NICODEMUS BOND,
SON OF GOVERNOR SHADRACH BOND.

KASKASKIA.

The history of Kaskaskia is unique and a marvel in America's annals. Away back in the aboriginal ages it was a village of the Illinois Indian Confederacy of five tribes—the Kaskaskias, Cahokias, Tamaroas, Peorias and Mitchigammies.

The first white man known to have visited this village, 1686, was a Lieut. M. Tonti, an Italian, and devoted friend of La Salle, the great explorer. A missionary station was soon after established in this Indian village, and the French made it one of their trading posts. In 1690 Father Gravier took charge of the mission and christened it "The Village of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin," and a chapel was erected. That chapel has been succeeded by others, but many relics of the early part of the eighteenth century have been preserved. The old bell, which was brought from France two hundred years ago, and from which rang out the first call for Christian worship in the Mississippi Valley, does that duty, or did until recently, for the few worshipers left. A Jesuit register of 1695 is said to be preserved among the church papers, as the church record from 1721 is known to be.

From 1712 this mission began to grow and became an important trading post with a garrison for the defense of the mission and a fort (Fort Gage) on the bluffs for the protection of the village. It was the surrender of this fort and garrison, under the command of French officers in the British Army, to Col. George Rogers Clark and his little army of 153 brave men, on the night of July 4, 1778,

which closed the War of the Revolution in the great Northwest.

After the War of the Revolution many Eastern families settled in Kaskaskia, which, during the eighteenth and the first decades of the nineteenth centuries, was the great trading post of the Middle Mississippi country, and of these families came the statesmen to whom Illinois is indebted for the broad lines upon which its laws have been founded. When, in 1809, the Illinois Territory was formed, Kaskaskia became the capital and so remained for Territory and State until 1822, when Vandalia became the seat of government. In 1825 General La Fayette visited and was entertained at the then palatial residences of General Edgar and William Morrison, the latter the father of our present Col. William Morrison, of Waterloo, Monroe County. Kaskaskia had then a population of ten thousand, with a newspaper office established in 1809, and a Masonic Lodge, "The Western Star Lodge, No. 107," Pennsylvania Register, instituted December 14, 1805.

In 1833 the foundation of a Convent for the "Sisters of the Visitation" was laid, but not completed until 1836. James A. Gallaher, the father of Mrs. General J. C. Smith, and his brother-in-law, Mr. Harson, were the contractors. Mr. Gallaher, like Governor Bond, was born in Frederick, Maryland, and Mr. Harson in Baltimore, from which city they came to enclose and finish the interior of the convent.

The convent building was of brick, and one of the largest and best in the West when finished in 1836, the main building being one hundred and ten feet long, thirty-two feet wide and four stories high, with a wing one hundred and fifty feet long and two stories in height, costing



RUINS OF GALLAHER-HARSON RESIDENCE, 1882.
PECAN AVENUE.

\$30,000 and upward. Under the charge of the Sisters of the Visitation a flourishing school was held until 1844, when the buildings were seriously damaged by the great rise in the river of that year, the most destructive of any before known in the Mississippi Valley. So serious was the flood that the Sisters and their pupils had to be taken out of the second story windows on a steamboat sent to their rescue and the buildings were abandoned.

The business of Kaskaskia and its commerce were destroyed by these floods, never more to be restored, for again, in 1851 and 1857, the waters devastated all the bottom lands and ruined the growing crops.

Other cities growing up in the Valley of the Mississippi and State of Illinois, Kaskaskia passed the zenith of its glory and decay was visible. It was no longer the city which La Fayette wished it to become, when, as its guest, April 30, 1825, he proposed the following toast: "Kaskaskia and Illinois: May their joint prosperity more and more evince the blessings of congenial industry and freedom," and Governor Bond responded with the following, which was drunk standing:

"General La Fayette: May he live to see that liberty established in his native country which he helped to establish in his adopted country."

A local writer of that period, having mentioned the devastation caused by the great rise in the Mississippi, had this to say of the probable future of Kaskaskia, the first capital city of Illinois, and the important trading post of the Mississippi Valley for nearly two centuries:

"These floods have left their impress deeply marked upon the once beautiful cottages of the village, and but for a few buildings that have been repaired and improved by the

more enterprising citizens, it would seem that the work of decay and ruin had commenced; but it may be a century hence ere another flood shall come, in which time the place may fully recover from the shocks it has received.

"But whatever may be the fate which destiny has fixed—whether it shall rise again to eclipse its former greatness, or whether it shall pass into ruins like Troy and Babylon—it will ever claim an important place in the annals of this country. The past, at least, is secure. It can never pass into oblivion while the history of America remains. All that which imparts interest and fascination to historic recollections is found in its records and traditions. With an existence stretching back into the darkness of an unexplored wilderness, its history blends the wild romance of Indian life with the thrilling adventures of the French pioneers; their life, exploits and gayeties, for nearly one hundred years; the pious labors of the Jesuit missionaries among the untamed savages; the founding of the first parish church in America; the military exploits of the English in 1755; the transfer of the country from France to England; the extraordinary campaign of Col. Clark; and the series of events by which the State government of Illinois was brought into existence."

The flood came as other floods had come, and in less than a half century from the time the foregoing was written the following editorial appeared in one of the Chicago newspapers, and January 1, 1902, by order of the Postmaster General, Kaskaskia was stricken from the postal map of the United States.

KASKASKIA GONE.

"One hundred years before Illinois became a Territory and one hundred and eleven years before it became a State, there was a town at Kaskaskia. Fifty years before

there was a white settlement at St. Louis or any military post at Pittsburg, and ninety-six years before the foundations were laid for Fort Dearborn at Chicago, Kaskaskia was a thriving village.

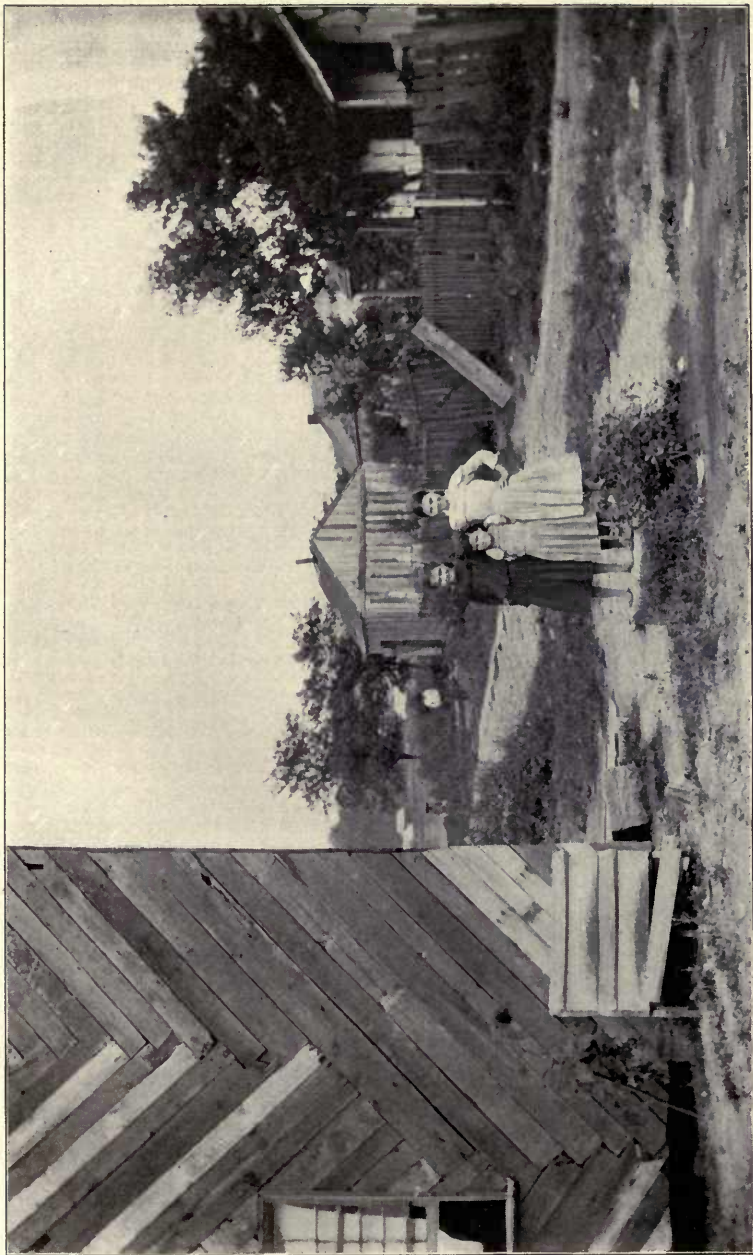
"As early as 1710 there were in the town three mills for grinding corn. As early as 1765 the town contained sixty-five families of whites. In 1771, five years before the Revolutionary War, it contained eighty houses, and had a population of 500 whites and 500 negroes. In 1809 it was made the capital of Illinois Territory. It was the capital of the State from 1818 until 1821, and was the seat of Randolph County until 1847.

"The first brick house built west of Pittsburg was constructed in Kaskaskia. For over half a century Kaskaskia was the metropolis of the upper Mississippi Valley, and was the focus of commerce in the Northwest Territory.

"On Thursday the last vestige of this historic settlement was swept away by the Mississippi River. The work of destruction that began with the great flood of 1844 was completed, and the home of the early Illinois Governors—the first State capital—ceased to exist. Its destruction was complete. Not a stone was left to mark the place.

"Chicago, that was built in a swamp, is the second city in America. New Orleans, located in what was believed an unsafe and unhealthy district, is the commercial metropolis of the Southwest. But Kaskaskia, which was set on a spot chosen from the boundless variety of the virgin West, is merely a memory."

Such in brief has been the history of the first important trading post in the great Mississippi Valley, the first capital city of Illinois, and the city in which the first Masonic altar was erected in our State.



AWAITING THE END — "THE LAST OF KASKIA," 1902.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

FREEMASONRY.

The first information we find relative to the organization and institution of a Lodge of Freemasons in the State of Illinois, then a part of the Territory of Indiana, is found in the proceedings of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, from which we take the following extracts and copies of papers:

"St. John's Day, Philadelphia, Monday, 25th June (St. John's Day having fallen on Sunday, 24th inst.), A. D. 1804.

"Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Grand General Communication.

"Present:

"Brother Israel Israel, Esquire, R. W. Grand Master."

Here follows names of other officers and then record of business transacted until we reach the following:

"A letter from Brother James Edgar, dated Kaskaskia, 7th May last, directed to James or Thomas Wilkins, was read. Brother Edgar thereby intimated a desire of obtaining a Dispensation for holding a Lodge in Kaskaskia, until a society should be formed, when application might be made for a warrant. *Ordered*, To lie over for consideration until the next Quarterly Communication."

At the next Quarterly Communication held in Philadelphia, as all Communications of Grand Lodge are held, 15th October, A. D. 1804:

"The letter from Brother James Edgar respecting a Dispensation for holding a Lodge at Kaskaskia, read on St. John's Day last, and ordered to lie over for consideration, was again read and referred to the R. W. Grand Mas-

ter to take such measures thereon as he may deem most expedient."

From October 15, 1804, until June 2, 1806, we have no further information except as we find it in the Dispensation, Warrant and Commission, which were subsequently issued in response to the following petition:

"PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FOR THE WESTERN STAR LODGE, NO. 107."

"To the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania—GREETING:

"The subscribers, and many others of our brethren in the counties of St. Clair and Randolph, beg leave to approach your worshipful body and state to you that they are far removed from those social enjoyments which they once as Masons have experienced; that from the growth of population many worthy and respectable brethren have settled, and many more will soon come to this country; and that your suppliants, from a sense of duty incumbent on them as Masons and as men, to promote their mutual happiness, the happiness of their neighbors, and as far as in their power lies, humanize society, and, furthermore, to impress on their memory what has long been written on their hearts. Wherefore, your suppliants thus presume to approach your worshipful body and request that, if in your councils you think it expedient, your worshipful body will grant to your suppliants a warrant, or if that can't be obtained, a Dispensation, authorizing them to hold a regular Lodge in the town of Kaskaskia, appointing such of your suppliants to preside therein as may seem proper to your worshipful body, sending with the said warrant your constitution, all other necessary instructions,

WE I J R A E L I J R A E L, Esquire, Right Worshipful Grand
Master of Masons in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Masonic Juris-
diction thereto belonging.

To all Free and Accepted Masons wherever dispersed

G R E E T I N G S

Referring the greatest Confidence in the Real, Power and Constancy in the Craft of
Our Worthy and beloved Brother James Edgar, a Past Master Ancient York Mason, residing at
Franklin in the Indiana Territory in the United States U r A by Virtue of the Powers and Author-
ities Voted in U S, W E D hereby authorize, empower and request him to call to his As-
sistance a sufficient Number of known and Approved Master Masons to Open a Lodge at
the Town of Frankfort aforesaid and their and these Initiate, Pass and Raise Free Masons ac-
cording to the most Ancient and honourable Custom of the Craft in all Ages and Nations is
throughout the known World and not contrary rise and to make Report to U S hereon
whenever of their proceedings. This Dispensation to remain in force for Six Months from
the Date hereof and no longer.

Given under Our Hand and the Seal of Our Grand
Lodge at the City of Philadelphia this Twenty-fourth Day
of September in the year of Our U S D 1805 and in the
year of Masonry 5805.

Israel Israel
G. M.

Attest

George A. Baker
Grand Secretary



and the amount of expenses attending the same, which will be duly remitted by your suppliants, etc., etc.

ROBERT MCMAHAN, Stanton No. 13.

JAMES EDGAR, Lodge No. 9, Philadelphia.

JAMES GALBREATH, No. 79, Chambersburg.

ROBERT ROBINSON, Stanton, No. 13.

WM. ARUNDEL, St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 2, Quebec.

MICHAEL JONES, No. 45, Pittsburg.

RUFUS EASTON, Roman Lodge, No. 82, New York.

"Indiana Territory. Kaskaskia, March 9, 1805."

A fac-simile of the Dispensation issued by Grand Master Israel, bearing date September 24, 1805, and the first authority for a Lodge of Freemasons in the "Indiana Territory," now the State of Illinois, is herewith reproduced.

On the back of this Dispensation we find the following endorsement:

"Return of the proceedings had by James Edgar, at Kaskaskia in the Illinois country, in virtue of the within dispensation—December 14th, 1805, he took to his assistance Rufus Easton as Senior, Michael Jones, Junior Wardens; Robert Robinson, Senior, and Alexander Anderson, Junior Deacons, and Wm. Arundel, Secretary, whom he found on due trial Master Masons. After some business done the Lodge closed in harmony—27th December, 1805. Lodge opened, and after some business done closed in harmony—January 1st, 1806. Lodge opened. James Galbreath, on due trial, was found a Master Mason, and afterwards admitted when the By-Laws were adopted and signed by James Edgar, Michael Jones, James Galbreath, Robert Robinson, Alexander Anderson and William Arundel, who thereby became members of the said Lodge,

after which an election was held, and Michael Jones was elected Senior, James Galbreath, Junior Wardens; Robert Robinson, Treasurer, and William Arundel, Secretary, and after some further business done the Lodge closed in harmony— 4th February, 1806. Lodge opened and after some business done closed in harmony— February 17th, 1806. Lodge opened, when Doctor Walter Fenwick and George Bullett, Esquires, of St. Genevieve, were duly initiated, and at subsequent nights passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts— February 3d, 1806. Lodge opened, when Charles Query, of the State of Kentucky, was duly initiated, and at subsequent nights was duly passed and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason— 18th February, 1806. Lodge opened, when *John Hays* and *John Hay*, Esquires, of Cahokia, were duly initiated, and at subsequent nights regularly passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons— March 1st, 1806. Lodge opened, when Francis Valley, Esquire, and Louis Lasourse, of St. Genevieve; Stephen Foster and George Fisher, Esquire, of Kaskaskia, were duly initiated, and at subsequent nights regularly passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons— 24th March, 1806. Lodge opened, when Andrew Henry, Esquire, of St. Genevieve, was duly initiated; the authority under this dispensation ceasing on this night (24th), the Lodge thought it expedient to pass and raise Brother A. Henry to the sublime degree of Master Mason on the same night, which was done accordingly.

Test.

JAMES EDGAR.

WILLIAM ARUNDEL, Secretary.

The building we here picture from a photograph in my possession was erected in 1792 of brick brought in flat-

boats from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. One of the bricks, which I brought from the building many years ago, measures 9 inches in length, 4 inches wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. It was the first brick building erected in the Mississippi Valley for public use as a town hall, the place of meeting of the Territorial, afterwards the State Legislature, and then a court house, until the removal of the county seat to Chester in 1848. It was also used by the Supreme Court of Illinois and in it Western Star Lodge was instituted and frequently held its meetings.*

RECORD GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DISPENSATION RETURNED AND WARRANT AUTHORIZED.

"The return to a Dispensation granted by the late R. W. Grand Master, on the 24th September last, directed to Brother James Edgar, authorizing him to open and hold a Lodge at Kaskaskia in the Indiana Territory of the United States for the term of six months from the date of said Dispensation, was read. Also a letter from Brother Edgar, dated 14th April last, respecting their proceedings under said Dispensation. And also a petition from Brother Edgar and divers other brethren, who had been members of said Lodge held under the aforesaid Dispensation, praying for a warrant for holding a Lodge at Kaskaskia aforesaid, to be called *The Western Star Lodge*, and that Brother James Edgar might be named Master, Brother Michael Jones, Senior Warden, and Brother James Galbraith, Junior Warden of the same, to which petition be-

*On our visits to Kaskaskia, in the '80s, the Old State House was used as a grocery and dry goods store on first floor and a residence on the second.

ing duly recommended according to the regulations of this Grand Lodge.

“On motion made and seconded:

“*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that Brother Grand Secretary make out a warrant accordingly, and the same be numbered 107.”

Accompanying the warrant was a commission to Brother Robert Robinson, a Past Master, duly authorizing him to constitute the Lodge and install its officers, of which the following is a copy:

“We, James Milnor, Esquire, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in and for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging.

“*To Brother Robert Robinson, a Past Master Mason—*
GREETING:

“Reposing the greatest confidence in your zeal, fervor and constancy in the craft, we do, by virtue of the power and authorities in us vested, hereby authorize and empower you to call to your assistance a sufficient number of known and approved Past Master Masons to open and constitute a new Lodge at Kaskaskia, in the Indiana Territory, in the United States, and there to proceed to the installation of our worthy Brother James Edgar, Master-elect, and other the officers of a new Lodge there to be established and constituted, to be called ‘The Western Star Lodge,’ No. 107, according to the most ancient and honourable custom of the Royal Craft in all ages and amongst all nations throughout the known world, and not contrarywise, and make report to us, hereon endorsed of your proceedings. This Dispensation to remain in force for three months from the date hereof and no longer.

“Given under our hand and the seal of our Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, at the city of Philadelphia, this

James Ch. Brown

Frank M. Wood

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN.

Robert Lewis

Robert. B. Park.

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN.

So all whom it may
Concern

THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING in Ample Form assembled at Philadelphia, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WISDOM!!!

STRENGTH!!!

FRATERNITY!!!

[illegible]

P. P. N. in open Grand Lodge, under the Hands of our Right Worshipful Grand Officers and the Seal of our Grand Lodge, at Philadelphia, this Second Day of June, 1782. A. C. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty— and of Money Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty.

1511 K

George A. Perkins GRAND SECRETARY.

Thos Armstrong

GRAND TREASURER.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord 1806, and of Masonry 5806.

(Seal.)

JAMES MILNOR.

(G. L.)

Attest:

GEORGE A. BAKER, Grand Secretary.

The following is the endorsement on back of commission of duty performed, made by Brother Robert Robinson:

WESTERN STAR LODGE, NO. 107.

"Agreeably to the within Dispensation to me directed to open and constitute a new Lodge of Ancient York Masons at Kaskaskia, and to install the W. Master, Brother James Edgar, and other the officers thereof, on the 13th day of September, 1806, I took to my assistance a sufficient number of known and approved Past Master Masons, and proceeded to open and constitute a new Lodge under the warrant of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, bearing date the 2d day of June, 1806, to the brethren here granted.

"Whereupon the W. Master, Brother James Edgar, and the other officers of this Lodge in the same warrant mentioned, were duly installed and invested with the ensigns of their respective offices, and the Lodge closed in due form.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Appointed to constitute Lodge No. 107.

"Kaskaskia, October 20th, 1806."

Following this, under the several dates, we have:

"St. John's Day, 27th December, 1806.

"A report of Lodge No. 107 having been duly constituted on the 13th day of September last, endorsed on the Dis-

pensation directed to Brother Robert Robinson for that purpose, was read and ordered to be filed.

* * * * *

"Monday, 1st June, A. D. 1807.

"Lodge No. 107, held at Kaskaskia. Election return of December last, returning Brother James Edgar, W. M.; Brother Michael Jones, S. W.; Brother Andrew Henry, J. W.; Brother William Arundel, Secretary; Brother Robert Robinson, Treasurer. Return of members, account of Grand Lodge dues, also a copy of the By-Laws of said Lodge; referred to the Committee on By-Laws to examine and report thereon."

Friday, 17th July, A. D. 1807, a Grand Extra Communication was held to act upon a petition from St. Genevieve, in the Territory of Louisiana, which event, speaking well for the activity of Western Star Lodge and the approved Masonic knowledge of its Master, Brother James Edgar, we give place here:

It was "from several brethren residing in the Territory of Louisiana praying for a warrant for holding a Lodge in the town of St. Genevieve, in the said Territory, to be called 'The Louisiana Lodge,' and that Brother Doctor Aaron Eliot might be named Master; Brother Andrew Henry, Senior Warden, and Brother George Bullitt, Junior Warden of the same; and that Brother James Edgar, W. Master of the Western Star Lodge, No. 107, held at Kaskaskia, might be authorized to constitute the said Lodge, which petition being in due form and being recommended by said Lodge No. 107, agreeably to the regulations of this Grand Lodge. It was on motion made and seconded.

"*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that Brother Grand Secretary make out a warrant accordingly and that the said Lodge be Number 109."

St. Genevieve is near Kaskaskia, but across the Mississippi, and in the Territory of Louisiana then, but the State of Missouri now. While Kaskaskia, then in the Territory of Indiana, afterwards in the Territory of Illinois and later in the State of Illinois, may now be in the State of Missouri and most assuredly the most of it under the Mississippi River. It bothers one to keep the geography of this country as it does that of the world in this nation-making age.

"Monday, 21st December, A. D. 1807, Lodge No. 107, held at Kaskaskia. A letter from said Lodge, dated 24th August last, mentioning its having enclosed \$20 on account of Grand Lodge dues, which Brother Grand Secretary informed he had paid over to Grand Treasurer."

At this same Communication a report was made by Committee on By-Laws, which is interesting:

"The Committee on By-Laws made report on the By-Laws of Lodge No. 107, which was read and in the words following, to-wit:

"The Committee to whom was referred the By-Laws of Lodge No. 107, held in the town of Kaskaskia,

"Respectfully beg leave to report,

"That they have carefully examined the same and recommend the following alterations:

"Section 2nd, in 2nd line, after the word *Regular*, insert 'Stated.'

"Ditto, in 7th line, to strike out the word 'Special.'

"Ditto, in 9th line, to insert after the word *Regular* 'Stated.'

"Ditto, in 9 and 10 lines, strike out 'or instantler, if prepared.'

"Section 4th, to strike out the whole of this section.

"Decr. 7th, 1807.

Signed by Committee."

"Which report was accepted, and all the alterations therein proposed were approved, except the second alteration, to strike out the word *Special*, which was not approved.

"The said 2nd section as altered reads as follows, to-wit: 'Every person desirous of becoming a member of our Lodge shall be proposed in regular stated Lodge hours, by a member thereof, who shall present a petition in writing, giving an account of the candidate, his name and place of residence, and being of full age. The petition being seconded by a member shall be read. Whereupon, a special committee of three members at least, to be appointed by the Lodge to report next regular stated Lodge the character, &c., of the candidate, and if the committee report favourable, the ballot shall then be taken, and the candidate elected without a dissenting vote. The Master shall cause him to be informed that the Lodge is ready to receive him (which may only be done in case there be no other business before the Lodge), or at an extra Lodge to be agreed on at the time of the candidate's election; but in case a black ball should through a mistake be put in the box at the time of balloting, the ballot shall be taken a second and a third time, and if there still appears a black ball the candidate shall be dismissed and no reason exacted from any member of this Lodge.

"The said 4th section, which was stricken out, read as follows, to wit: Provided, however, that during the Dispensation under which this Lodge is now constituted, a candidate may be proposed at any Special Lodge any time before the regular Lodge night, anything in the second section of these By-Laws to the contrary notwithstanding.

"And the said last amendment, which was stricken out, was in the words following, to wit: 'In order to enable

this Lodge to take a ballot and initiate a candidate at an extra Lodge during the time limited by this Dispensation, it was motioned, seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that so much of the By-Laws as relates to the balloting for candidates be repealed, and that this Lodge shall have power to ballot for, initiate, pass and raise members at extra Lodges, during the Dispensation."

Philadelphia, Monday, 16th October, A. D. 1809.

At this, an adjourned Quarterly Communication, committee reported on Returns of Lodges, when chartered and their indebtedness to Grand Lodge, in which we find:

"No. 107, The Western Star, at Kaskaskia, in the Indiana Territory. Granted 2 June, 1806. Returns to December, 1806. A balance of \$5.52, owing to that time," and of which the Grand Secretary was directed to notify them.

August 7, 1813. Western Star Lodge was notified of being more than two years in arrears for Grand Lodge dues, and unless satisfactory reasons for such neglect were given for next Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, their warrant would be vacated.

Philadelphia, Monday, April 4th, A. D. 1814, A. L. 5814. At this adjourned Quarterly Communication we find Grand Secretary reports all returns made and dues paid.

"Lodge No. 107, held at Kaskaskia, Illinois Territory. Election return, returning Brother William C. Greenup, W. M.; Brother Philip Fouke, S. W.; Brother Clement S. Conway, J. W.; Brother Philip Rockblave, Treasurer; Brother Michael Jones, Secretary. Return of members and account of Grand Lodge dues. Also, a copy of the By-Laws of Lodge No. 107, was received and referred to the Committee on By-Laws to examine and report thereon,"

which committee did and reported same at March 6th, 1815, Communication, and their report was adopted.

Having seen that "The Western Star Lodge, No. 107," was firmly established and several others having been warranted by other Grand Lodges, we take up the Masonic history of Governor Shadrach Bond, and that of the Grand Lodge organized by eight of those Lodges in the year 1822, A. L. 5822.



GOVERNOR BOND'S FREEMASONRY.

Brother Shadrach Bond was made a Freemason in Temple Lodge, No. 26, Reisters Town, Baltimore County, Maryland, but in what year we cannot learn. Brother E. T. Schultz, in his history of Freemasonry in Maryland, says that Temple Lodge was instituted in 1797, and ceased to work in 1815, returning no books or papers to Grand Lodge. Grand Secretary Jacob H. Medary informs me that any records of this Lodge which may have been in his office were lost in the fire which destroyed their Temple in Baltimore, December 25, 1890.

In the Pennsylvania Register of Members we find Shadrach Bond became a member of The Western Star Lodge, No. 107, Kaskaskia, Territory of Indiana, December 27, 1806, and we have the record of his visit to that Lodge on October 4, 1806, when his petition for membership by affiliation was presented.

Brother John C. Reynolds, in his "History of Masonry in Illinois," copies liberally from the Records of The Western Star Lodge and other Lodges, but what became of the original papers we do not know, nor can we find trace of them.

From authentic record we have the fact that Brother Bond was Junior Deacon of his Lodge in 1814, and Worshipful Master in 1815-18-27-28-29, and that he was a frequent attendant on Lodge at all times.

In the closing days of Governor Bond's official term as Governor the Grand Lodge of Freemasons for the State of Illinois was constituted, and December 11, 1822, Brother Bond was elected, and at a subsequent date installed as its first M. W. Grand Master.

MASONIC CONVENTION.

The following is a copy of the records of the Masonic Convention which formed the first Grand Lodge in the State of Illinois, A. D. December 9, 1822, A. L. 5822, which was "styled and known" as "The Grand Lodge of Illinois, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons."

"Organization of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons.

"Vandalia, Illinois.

"Masonic Convention, December 9, 1822. At a meeting of the brethren, consisting of the delegates of the different Lodges in the State of Illinois, on Monday, December 9, A. L. 5822, Brother Thomas C. Brown was appointed Chairman, and Brother Wm. H. Brown, Secretary.

"The following brethren produced their certificates and were recognized as delegates, viz.:

Libanus Lodge, No. 29.—Richard J. McKinney, Dennis Rockwell, John Y. Sawyer, Nathaniel Buckmaster, William H. Hopkins, David Prickett.

The Western Star Lodge, No. 107.—Thomas Reynolds, Shadrach Bond.

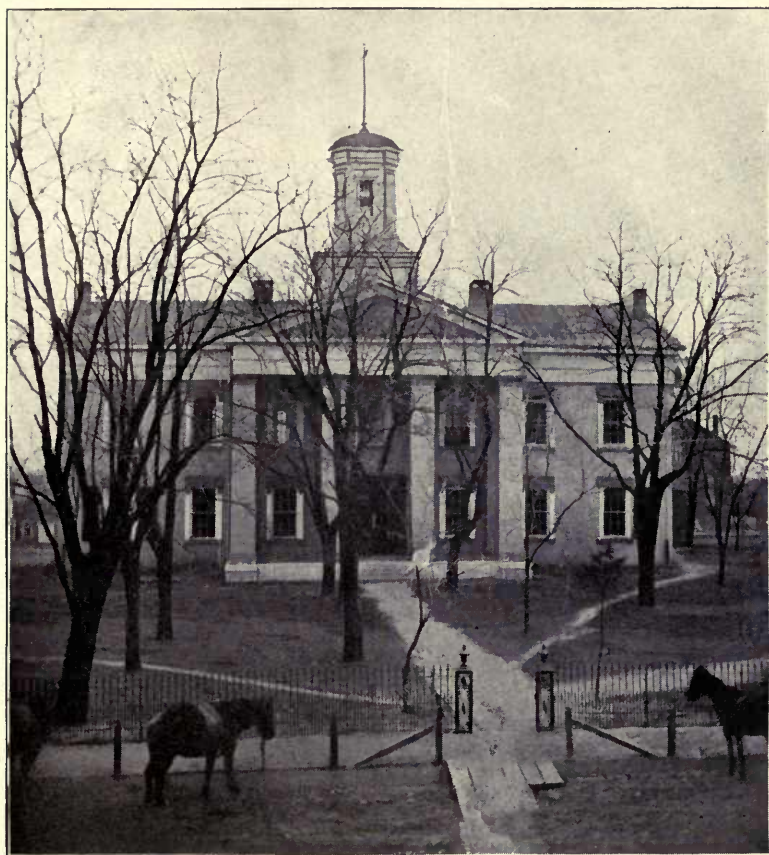
Olive Branch Lodge, No. 5.—James W. Whitney, Charles Gear, Charles W. Hunter.

Albion Lodge, No. 9.—Benjamin J. Mills, Gilbert T. Pell.

Eden Lodge, No. 11.—James Turney.

Union Lodge, No. 10.—Abner Field, Charles Dunn.

Vandalia Lodge, No. 8.—William H. Brown, James M. Duncan, John S. Duncan, Russell Botsford, E. C. Berry, John Warnock.



OUR SECOND STATE HOUSE, VANDALIA,
WHERE GRAND LODGE ORGANIZED, 1822, AND HELD COMMUNICATIONS.

Lawrence Lodge, No. 34.—Thomas C. Brown, James Hall.

“On motion:

“*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to form a Constitution for a Grand Lodge in the State of Illinois, and that the committee report to-morrow at 4 o'clock.

“Bros. T. Reynolds, C. W. Hunter, G. T. Pell, James Turney, Abner Field, Wm. H. Brown, James Hall and John Y. Sawyer were appointed that committee.

“On motion:

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge be located at Vandalia.”

The Convention then adjourned until to-morrow at 4 o'clock p. m.

December 10, A. L. 5822.

“The Convention again assembled. Bro. Sawyer, from the committee appointed to draft a Constitution for a Grand Lodge, reported the following Constitution, which was read section by section and adopted.”

As the Constitution, together with a copy of the By-Laws, appears with the proceedings of the Special Communication held at Vandalia, January 3, A. L. 5826, we omit their publication here and proceed with the organization.

Formed and agreed upon December 9 (10), A. L. 5822.

Libanus Lodge, No. 29.—Richard J. McKinney, Dennis Rockwell, John Y. Sawyer, Nathaniel Buckmaster, William H. Hopkins, David Pricket.

The Western Star Lodge, No. 107.—Thomas Reynolds, Shadrach Bond.

Olive Branch Lodge, No. 5.—James W. Whitney, Charles Gear, Charles W. Hunter.

Albion Lodge, No. 9.—Benjamin J. Mills, Gilbert T. Pell.

Eden Lodge, No. 11.—James Turney.

Union Lodge, No. 10.—Abner Field, Charles Dunn.

Vandalia Lodge, No. 8.—William H. Brown, James M. Duncan, John S. Duncan, Russell Botsford, E. C. Berry, John Warnock.

Lawrence Lodge, No. 34.—Thomas C. Brown, James Hall.

“On motion of Bro. Dunn:

“*Resolved*, That the delegates from each Lodge take a copy of the Constitution and transmit the same to their respective Lodges.

“Adjourned until to-morrow at 4 o’clock p. m.”

Wednesday, December 11th, A. L. 5822.

“The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

“On motion of Bro. Hall, the following resolution was adopted:

“*Resolved*, That we proceed forthwith to the nominations of persons to fill the offices of Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, which nominations shall be presented to the several Lodges, with the Constitution recommended for their adoption; and if a majority of the Lodges approve of said nominations, the persons so nominated shall be considered as duly elected.

“*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the several Lodges, immediately upon the ratification or disapproval by them of the proceedings of this Convention, to transmit notice of same to the Grand Master-elect, and if it appear that a majority of the Lodges concur in the proceedings of the Convention, then the Grand Lodge shall be considered as duly organized, and the Grand Master

shall order the first meeting of the same at such time as he shall think proper.

"Whereupon, the Convention proceeded to ballot for officers, when upon counting the ballots it appeared that Shadrach Bond was elected Grand Master; John Y. Sawyer, Grand Senior Warden; Wm. M. Alexander, Grand Junior Warden; Richard T. McKinney, Grand Secretary; James O. Wattles, Grand Treasurer.

"On motion of Bro. Hall:

"*Resolved*, That a copy of the minutes of the Convention be made out by the Secretary, and countersigned by the Chairman, and that a copy of the Constitution now formed be deposited in Vandalia Lodge until the Grand Lodge is organized.

"The Convention then adjourned *sine die*.

"THOMAS C. BROWN,

"Chairman.

"WM. H. BROWN,

"Secretary."

It will be seen from the foregoing that a copy of the Constitution was to have been deposited in the archives of Vandalia Lodge, but after "strict search and due enquiry" has been made in and about Vandalia by Brother Richard T. Higgins, for me, we learn that no copy or other paper connected with this Convention can be found. In 1859, Brother J. W. Whitney, a member of the Convention, and of Olive Branch Lodge, No. 5, sent a copy of these proceedings to Brother Harmon G. Reynolds, then Grand Secretary, and suggested that a duplicate be made and filed in the archives of Pittsfield Lodge, to find which that diligent craftsman, W. B. Grimes, has made strict search, and they cannot be found. It is believed that the proceedings

of this Convention were never published, and as far as this writer's knowledge goes, but few if any copies of the sessions of this Grand Lodge are to be found in Illinois, except the three copies now in his possession of three different Grand Communications. We give exact reproductions of the same in this book, as they are of special interest to our brother craftsmen.

For the loan of these proceedings and the many original papers of the Grand Lodge of 1822, we are under fraternal obligations to Brothers William A. Sinn, Grand Secretary, and George P. Rupp, Librarian, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; Thomas H. R. Redway, Grand Secretary, New Jersey; and Rev. John D. Vincil, Grand Secretary, Missouri.

To Brothers William Schuchert and John D. Gerlach, of Chester; Bro. J. A. Wagner, W. M., Kaskaskia Lodge, No. 86; Mr. James N. Brown and Conrad Roeder, of St. Louis, and others, we are under obligations for favors, for which they have our thanks.

Grand Lodge is reported to have met in Stated Communication in December, 1823, but no proceedings have been found of that date, or any printed before those of December 6, 1824.

The printed proceedings, so far as we can discover, are as follows, correct copies of which we give in page, form and size, as in the original, with photo copies of the title pages of the pamphlets:

Proceedings, December 6-14, 1824.

Proceedings, January 1, 1825.

Constitution and By-Laws, 1822-6.

Proceedings, January 3-10, 1826.

Proceedings, December 3-20, 1826.

Proceedings, January 1-23, 1827.

The discovery of these old records of 1826-7 clears up a mystery we have endeavored to penetrate for over forty years, and that is: From where did Strangers' Union Lodge, No. 14, working in Galena in 1826, receive its authority?

In the record of December 20, 1826, we find the following:

"The petition of sundry brethren residing at Fever [Fevre] River for a charter at that place, recommended by Frontier Lodge, was received and referred to a select committee," and at the session of January 1, 1827, the following:

"*Ordered*, That the committee to which was referred the petition of sundry brethren on Fever [Fevre] River be discharged from the further consideration thereof, and that a charter be issued by this Grand Lodge agreeable to the prayer of said petitioners."

Again, on January 23, 1827, Grand Lodge adopted the following:

"*Resolved*, That Brother Henry H. Snow be authorized to install the first officers of the Lodge at Fever [Fevre] River."

This little mining village where the lodge at Fever River was situated was three miles back from the Mississippi River, on a small but deep stream, which had been known since 1823 as "Bean River" and "Fevre River," but which finally became Galena River, from the name of the mineral found in its banks. So of the village; it had been known as "La Pointe," but more generally as "Fever River Village," until in the winter of 1826 it had been resolved by the citizens that it should have the name of its mineral, large deposits of which were found in the

surrounding country, and mines of which are still being discovered and extensively worked.

This Grand Lodge we are writing about has been known to but few except as a tradition, and it was not known that a copy of its proceedings existed until the writer found the same in our Eastern States.

Even the Deputy Grand Secretary, John C. Reynolds, the historian of our present Grand Lodge, appointed as such by Grand Master Jerome R. Gorin, October 10, 1867, assisted as he was by his father, Harmon G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary, failed to find any proceedings of Grand Lodge later than January 10, 1826.

We have added full copies of proceedings of December 3-20, A. D. 1826, and January 1-23, A. D. 1827, together with much other new matter relating to that first Grand Lodge in Illinois.



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND LODGE
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
AT THE
GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION,
AT VANDALIA,
ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, A. L. 5824.



EDWARDSVILLE:
PRINTED BY THOMAS J. M'GUIRE.
.....
1825.

PROCEEDINGS, &c.

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, held at Vandalia, on Monday, the 6th day of December, A. L. 5824.—Present:

R. W. James Hall, D. G. M. and G. M. pro tem.

R. W. George H. C. Melody, D. G. M. pro tem.

R. W. John Y. Sawyer, G. S. W.

R. W. Wm. M. Alexander, G. J. W.

R. W. Wm. H. Brown, D. G. Secretary.

R. W. James O. Wattles, G. Treasurer.

W. James M. Duncan, G. S. D.

W. Richard J. Hamilton, G. J. D.

W. Emanuel J. West, G. Tyler, pro tem.

Delegates.

Albion Lodge—Jesse B. Brown and Henry I. Mills.

Union Lodge—James S. Smith, W. M., Henry L. Webb,
P. M.

Vandalia Lodge—Robert H. Peebles, W. M., Nathaniel
Sanburn, J. W., William H. Brown, P. M.

Lawrence Lodge—James Hall and Thomas C. Browne.

Hiram Lodge—Richard J. Hamilton, W. M.

Western Star Lodge—Thomas Reynolds.

Visiting Brethren.

Alexander Philips and John M. Robinson, of Western
Star Lodge; Nicholas Hansen and Thomas J. M'Guire, of
Libanus Lodge; William Twigg, of Albion Lodge; Daniel
Hay, of Lawrence Lodge; Curtiss Blakeman, of St.
Andrews Lodge, N. Y.; Aaron Knapp, of Homer Lodge,
N. Y.

On motion of Brother Grand Senior Warden,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the credentials of delegates attending this Grand Lodge.

Whereupon Brothers Sawyer, Wattles and J. B. Brown were appointed that committee.

The credentials of the delegates from Albion Lodge were read and referred to the Committee on Credentials.

The report from Union Lodge was read, and referred to the last mentioned committee.

The petition of Jacob C. Bruner was read, and on motion of Brother Grand Treasurer, referred to a select committee, consisting of Brothers Wattles, Hamilton and J. B. Brown.

On motion of Brother Grand Junior Warden,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to enquire how far the subordinate Lodges within this state are affected by the resolution declaring that "the Lodges which assisted at the formation of this Grand Lodge shall be considered as within our jurisdiction," and what is the operation of said resolution in regard to such Lodges.

Brothers Alexander, Field, Hamilton, Wattles and Dunn were appointed that committee.

The following committees were appointed by the M. W. Grand Master pro tem., viz: To examine the accounts of the Treasurer, Brothers Webb and Hamilton. To examine the books and papers of the Secretary, Brothers Reynolds and J. B. Brown.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge adjourn until tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Tuesday, December 7.

The Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment. Present, the same as yesterday, with the addition of Brothers

James Watts, of Libanus Lodge; Frederick Hollman, of Vandalia Lodge; James Adams, of Skaneateles Lodge, N. Y.; Stephen Stillman, of Sangamo Lodge; Richard M. Young, of Union Lodge; Joseph Duncan, of Hiram Lodge, and David Coons, of Olive Branch Lodge.

The Committee on Credentials made the following report:

The Committee to whom was referred the examination of credentials report that the credentials of all the Lodges represented here are in form, with the exception of Albion Lodge, which has appointed delegates, instead of their being appointed by the officers of the Lodge, as proxies. Your committee, therefore, beg leave to introduce the following resolution:

Resolved, That the delegates from Albion Lodge be allowed to take their seats in this Grand Lodge.

Which report and resolution were concurred in.

Brother Wattles, from the Select Committee on the petition of Jacob C. Bruner, reported favorably to the prayer of the petitioner, and recommended the adoption of the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That Jacob C. Bruner, who has been expelled from Libanus Lodge, be restored to his membership in the same, and to the privileges of Masonry; but that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the said Lodge from again proceeding to the trial of the charges exhibited against him.

Which report and resolution were ordered to lie on the table.

The Grand Senior Warden made the following report:

In the absence of the M. W. Grand Master, the Grand Senior Warden reports that a charter has been granted to

Albion Lodge, and a Dispensation to Hart Fellows and others, of Carrollton, in the County of Greene, during the vacation, with orders to return it to this Grand Communication.

The M. W. Grand Master pro tem. appointed Brothers Mills, McGuire and Hamilton the Standing Committee on reports from Lodges.

The reports of Hiram and Vandalia Lodges were read, and referred to the last mentioned committee.

The committee appointed to examine the Secretary's books and papers report that they have performed that duty, and find them correct, except in one instance, where the names of the visiting brethren were omitted to be inserted.

On motion of Brother Deputy Grand Secretary, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Reports from Lodges be required to examine and report whether the Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge have complied with the by-laws in the payment of their dues.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge adjourn till tomorrow at 2 o'clock p. m.

Wednesday, December 8.

The Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment. Present, as before.

The Grand Treasurer made the following report, which was concurred in:

The Grand Treasurer begs leave to report that during the past year he has received from Palestine Lodge five dollars towards payment for the Dispensation granted from the Grand Secretary, and no more, making in all six dollars, which remains in his hands, subject to the disposal of the Grand Lodge.

The committee appointed to enquire how far the subordinate Lodges are affected by the formation of this Grand Lodge, with the Grand Lodges under whom they formerly, or now work, made a report, which was concurred in.

The Committee to whom was referred the reports of the subordinate Lodges, made a report, which was concurred in.

On motion of Brother Grand Junior Warden,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft a memorial to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, to enquire into the causes which have induced that Grand Lodge to suspend the Western Star Lodge, at Kaskaskia.

Brothers Alexander, Hamilton and Sawyer were appointed that committee.

The report from Albion Lodge was read, and referred to the Committee on reports from Lodges.

On motion of Brother Reynolds the petition of Jacob C. Bruner was taken up, and

On motion of Brother Grand Junior Warden, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That as Libanus Lodge is working under the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, this Grand Lodge can take no cognizance of said petition.

On motion of Brother Grand Senior Warden, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the subordinate Lodges, who assisted at the formation of this Grand Lodge, and have neglected to surrender their charters from other Grand Lodges, and take charters from this Grand Lodge, be allowed a further time of six months to perform that duty.

Resolved, That those Lodges neglecting the requisitions

of the preceding resolution, be stricken from the rolls of this Grand Lodge, and that those Lodges be immediately furnished with a copy of these resolutions.

On motion, *Resolved*, That an election for Grand Officers of this Grand Lodge be held this evening at 7 o'clock, and that the officers so elected be publicly installed to-morrow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

A communication from E. C. Berry was read, and, on motion of Brother Grand Junior Warden, it was referred to a select committee, consisting of Brothers Alexander, Duncan and Reynolds.

The Committee on Reports from Lodges, made a report, accompanied by the following resolution, both of which were concurred in:

Resolved, That the delegates from Albion Lodge are entitled to all the privileges and rights of members of this Grand Lodge.

The M. W. Grand Lodge then proceeded to the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing year, when, upon counting the ballots, it appeared that

Brother James Hall was elected M. W. G. Master.

Brother John York Sawyer, R. W. G. S. Warden.

Brother Richard J. Hamilton, R. W. G. J. Warden.

Brother James O. Wattles, R. W. G. Treasurer.

Brother William H. Brown, R. W. G. Secretary.

The M. W. Grand Lodge then adjourned till to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Thursday, December 9.

The Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment. A Lodge of Past Master Masons was opened:

R. W. George H. C. Melody, G. M.

R. W. Henry L. Webb, G. S. W.

R. W. James O. Wattles, G. J. W.

Brother James Watts, G. S. D.

Brother Robert H. Peebles, G. J. D.

Brother James S. Smith, G. Tyler.

And after some business done therein, the Lodge was closed, and a Lodge of Master Masons opened.

M. W. James Hall, G. Master, elect.

R. W. John Y. Sawyer, G. S. W., elect.

R. W. Richard J. Hamilton, G. J. W., elect.

R. W. James O. Wattles, G. Treasurer, elect.

R. W. William H. Brown, G. Secretary, elect.

Brother Thomas Reynolds, G. S. D., pro tem.

Brother Emanuel J. West, G. J. D., pro tem.

Brother Joseph Enos, G. Tyler, pro tem.

Brothers Watts, Dunn and others, members and visiting brethren.

The Grand Officers elect of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois were then installed, in due form, by the R. W. George H. C. Melody, Deputy Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

A communication from R. W. Brother George H. C. Melody was read.

On motion of Brother Grand Senior Warden,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be presented to Brother Melody, for his polite attention and fraternal kindness in attending the present Annual Grand Communication, and for the aid he has rendered in the performance of our duties.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to wait on Brother Melody and present to him the above resolution, and request him to receive the sum of twenty dollars to discharge the expenses of his visit to us, which sum the

Grand Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay to said committee.

Ordered, That Brothers Sawyer, Webb and Reynolds be that committee.

The M. W. Grand Lodge then adjourned till to-morrow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Friday, December 10.

The Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment.

M. W. James Hall, G. M.

R. W. John Y. Sawyer, G. S. W.

R. W. Richard J. Hamilton, G. J. W.

R. W. James O. Wattles, G. Treasurer.

R. W. William H. Brown, G. Secretary.

Brother Robert H. Peebles, G. S. D., pro tem.

Brother Charles Dunn, G. J. D., pro tem.

Brother Joseph Enos, G. Tyler, pro tem.

Brothers Whiteaker, Webb, H. I. Mills, Norton, Twigg, Smith, Utter and Adams, members and visitors.

The M. W. Grand Master made the following appointments, viz:

Brother Henry H. Snow, Deputy Grand Master.

Brother Robert H. Peebles, Grand Senior Deacon.

Brother Emanuel J. West, Grand Junior Deacon.

Brother John Whiteaker, Grand Marshal.

Brother Thomas Reynolds, Grand Sword Bearer.

Brother Charles Dunn, Grand Pursuivant.

Brother James S. Smith and Brother John Warnock, Grand Stewards.

Brother Joseph Enos, Grand Tyler.

The Grand Secretary appointed Brother Thomas L. Posey, Deputy Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge.

On motion of Brother Grand Treasurer,

Resolved, That all the subordinate Lodges in this State shall receive charters, so soon as they have discharged their dues to the Grand Lodges under which they have hitherto held, and withdrawn from the jurisdiction of such Grand Lodges, on application to the M. W. Grand Master, and surrendering to him their former charters.

On motion of Brother Grand Senior Deacon, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, the Vandalia Lodge has paid to Col. William Berry the sum of forty dollars, as a compensation for the loss of his Sword, destroyed by the conflagration of the state house, after the meeting of this Grand Lodge in 1823; therefore,

Resolved, That the dues owing by said Lodge to this M. W. Grand Lodge for the present year be remitted.

The bye-laws of Union Lodge were presented, and referred to the Committee on Reports from Lodges.

On motion of Brother Dunn,

Resolved, That it be recommended by this Grand Lodge to each of the Lodges subordinate thereto, to transact the ordinary business of a Lodge in an Entered Apprentice's Lodge; and to receive and act upon all petitions for membership, or for any degree in Masonry, in a Master's Lodge only, and that the Grand Secretary transmit a copy of this resolution to each of the subordinate Lodges.

The M. W. Grand Lodge then adjourned till to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

A Past Master's Lodge was then opened, and Brothers Snow, Peebles, Dun, West, Reynolds, Whiteaker, Smith, Warnock and Enos were duly installed in their respective offices.

The Past Master's Lodge was then closed in peace and harmony.

Tuesday, December 14.

The M. W. Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment. Present, as before.

Brother Guy W. Smith presented the dispensation, granted in vacation, to certain brethren residing in Palestine; also, a return from said Lodge, which was received.

On motion of Brother Grand Treasurer, a charter was granted to Palestine Lodge, and time was given them till the next Grand Communication, to pay the fees due for said charter.

Brother Reynolds, from the committee appointed upon the memorial of E. C. Berry, made a report, which was adopted; and the Grand Secretary ordered to forward a copy to the Grand Lodge of Missouri immediately.

Ordered, That the dispensation, heretofore granted to brethren residing at Carrollton be renewed, and continued in force, until the next Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge.

Union and Vandalia Lodges having paid to the Grand Lodge of Missouri the dues owing to said Lodge, and having surrendered their charters to this Grand Lodge, it is ordered that charters be issued to said Union Lodge as Union Lodge No. 7, and Vandalia Lodge as Vandalia Lodge, No. 5.

On motion, *Ordered*, That Brothers Peebles and Brown be a committee to confer with Mr. Bullard, on account of the rent of his room for the use of this Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge was then adjourned till the first day of January next, and a Lodge of Past Master Masons opened; when Brother Guy W. Smith was introduced, and duly installed Master of Palestine Lodge in ample form.

The Lodge of Past Masters was then closed in peace and harmony.

January 1, A. L. 5825.

The Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment.

M. W. James Hall, G. M.

R. W. Henry H. Snow, Deputy G. M.

R. W. John Y. Sawyer, G. S. W.

R. W. Robert H. Peebles, G. J. W. pro tem.

R. W. James O. Wattles, G. Treasurer.

R. W. Benjamin Mills, G. Secretary, pro tem.

Brother William Twigg, G. S. D., pro tem.

Brother Emanuel J. West, G. J. D.

Brother Joseph Enos, G. Tyler.

A report from Olive Branch Lodge was presented, read and accepted.

Brother Grand Junior Deacon presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the R. W. Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Lodge be, and he is hereby authorized and required, to visit each and every Lodge, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge once in each year.

On motion of Brother Grand Junior Deacon,

Resolved, That the thanks of this M. W. Grand Lodge be presented, through the M. W. Grand Master, to the Honorable Senate of the State of Illinois, for their polite offer of the use of the Senate Chamber, for the use of this Grand Lodge.

The R. W. Grand Senior Warden presented a memorial, which, upon his motion, was adopted as a substitute for the one presented upon the petition of E. C. Berry, and ordered to be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

On motion of Brother Grand Senior Deacon,

Ordered, That the sum of four dollars be appropriated for the payment of John Bullard, for the use of his chamber.

On motion of the R. W. Deputy Grand Master,

Ordered, That upon the presentation of their work, constitution and by-laws to the M. W. Grand Master, or his Deputy, a charter be granted in vacation to Greene Lodge as Lodge No. 11.

On motion of Brother Grand Treasurer,

Ordered, That the sum of seven dollars be allowed to Brother Joseph Enos for his services as Tyler; and that the Grand Treasurer be, and he is thereby authorized, to pay over to Brother Enos said sum out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

No further business appearing before the Grand Lodge, it was closed in peace and harmony.

WM. H. BROWN, Grand Secretary.

Abstract of the return of Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, for the year 1824.

	Initiated.....	Passed.....	Raised.....	Suspended.....	Expelled.....	Demitted.....	Deaths.....	Rejected.....	Whole Number.
Olive Branch, No. 4.....	2	3	4	0	0	0	2	0	25
Vandalia, No. 5.....	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	12
Union, No. 6.....	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	*1	17
Eden, No. 7.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..
Hiram, No. 8.....	3	3	3	0	†1	0	0	0	24
Albion, No. 9.....	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	22
Palestine, No. 10.....	5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	17
Greene, No. 11.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

*Samuel S. Crafton—About 23 years of age, light hair,

heavy made, about 5 feet 9 inches high, by occupation a farmer.

†William G. Shade—No description given.

Note.—The Lodges at Kaskaskia, Shawneetown and Edwardsville, the oldest in the State, and the Sangamo Lodge, at Springfield, have not yet dissolved their connections with the Grand Lodges under whom they obtained charters, and united with the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

R. W. Sir and Brother:

I herewith transmit you the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, at their Grand Annual Communication, in 1824.

WILLIAM H. BROWN, Grand Secretary.

Address of the Grand Secretary:

WILLIAM H. BROWN, Vandalia, Illinois.



CONSTITUTION,
AND
BYE-LAWS,
OF THE
GRAND LODGE
OF THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS.
AND
THEIR PROCEEDINGS
AT A
SPECIAL COMMUNICATION,
OPENED AT VANDALIA,
ON THE
THIRD DAY OF JANUARY; A. L. 5826,
AND CLOSED JANUARY 10, A. L. 5826.

VANDALIA:
PRINTED BY ROBERT BLACKWELL.
.....
1826.

CONSTITUTION.

Sect. 1. *Be it ordained*, That the Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master; a Deputy Grand Master; Grand Senior and Grand Junior Wardens; a Grand Chaplain; a Grand Treasurer; a Grand Secretary, and Deputy Grand Secretary; two Grand Deacons; a Grand Marshal; a Grand Tyler; two Grand Stewards; a Grand Sword Bearer; a Grand Pursuivant. The Masters and Wardens, for the time being, of the several Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, all Past Grand Officers of this Grand Lodge, and all Past Masters of regular Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, who continue members of any regular Lodge are likewise considered members of, and admitted to vote in, this Grand Lodge; also those members who were present at, and signed this instrument drawn up and agreed upon at this Convention for the formation of this Grand Lodge, whilst they continue members of, and pay dues to any regular Lodge in this state.

Sect. 2. The Grand Lodge, so organized, shall be styled and known by the name of "The Grand Lodge of Illinois, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons."

Sect. 3. The Grand Lodge shall hold Annual Communications: and the Grand Master, or his Deputy, in case of his absence, may, on very urgent occasions, call special meetings.

Sect. 4. When any officer of a subordinate Lodge cannot attend the Grand Lodge, he may depute any Brother of equal or superior rank to himself, to act for him in the Grand Lodge; and such deputation shall be under the hand and seal of the Brother deputing; when the Master or Wardens of any sub-

ordinate Lodge depute the same Brother to represent them, he must have attained at least the rank of Past Master.

Sect. 5. Past Grand Officers may hold offices in subordinate Lodges; and this shall not deprive them of any privileges they might claim in the Grand Lodge as Past Grand Officers.

Sect. 6. The Grand Master, Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, shall be annually elected by ballot; the Grand Master and Grand Secretary shall appoint their Deputies respectively; and, until the Grand Lodge shall, by its Bye-Laws, otherwise provide, the Grand Master shall appoint all other officers.

Sect. 7. In all questions which shall come before the Grand Lodge for its discussion, every subordinate Lodge shall be entitled to three votes, which shall not be separated; but the brethren representing such Lodge shall agree among themselves on which side the votes shall be given; and every Present and Past Grand Officer, and all Past Masters, being members of this Lodge, shall be entitled to one vote individually; and the Grand Master, and his Deputy when presiding, shall, whenever necessary, give the casting vote.

Sect. 8. The Grand Lodge shall have power to constitute new Lodges, by letters patent under their seal; to establish an uniform mode of working throughout the State, strictly adhering to the ancient land-marks, usages, and customs of Masonry; and to require from the several Lodges under their jurisdiction, such annual dues as they shall deem necessary, to be appropriated for the benefit of the Craft; to hear and determine all appeals from subordinate Lodges, and to decide on all disputes between different Lodges under their jurisdiction; to demand such fees as may be deemed just and reasonable upon granting charters constituting new Lodges; to

make such Bye-Laws as may be necessary for their good government, and not inconsistent with this Constitution; and finally, to do all things heretofore accustomed to be done by other Grand Lodges, which are within the ancient landmarks and usages of the Craft.

Sect. 9. That in addition to the officers enumerated in the first clause of this Constitution, there may be appointed one or more Grand Lecturers, whose duty it shall be, at least once in every year, to visit all the subordinate Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, for the purpose of establishing an uniform mode of working, and of correcting any errors which may have obtained among them.

Sect. 10. No alteration shall take place in this Constitution, except in the following manner:—Every amendment shall be proposed in writing at a regular Communication of the Grand Lodge, a fair copy of which shall be sent by the Grand Secretary to each of the subordinate Lodges, who shall pass or reject the same, and certify their proceedings to the next regular Communication; when, if it appear that two-thirds of the subordinate Lodges have agreed to pass the same, it shall become a part of this Constitution.

Formed and agreed upon, December 9, A. L. 5822.

BYE-LAWS.

Sect. 1. The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge shall be held in the town of Vandalia, on the first Monday in December, which shall be called the Grand Annual Communication; at which time the Grand Officers shall be elected and appointed, in the manner prescribed by the Constitution.

Sect. 2. No brother shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge, unless he shall have passed the chair in some regular Lodge, or in cases of emergency.

Sect. 3. Should the Chair of the Grand Lodge become vacant by death, resignation or otherwise, it shall be filled by seniority, until the next Grand Annual Communication. And in case any other office becomes vacant by death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, the Grand Master for the time being shall fill such vacancy by his nomination.

Sect. 4. Every Lodge, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall, at each Grand Annual Communication, deliver to the Grand Secretary a list of the officers and members of their Lodge; also a list of the admissions, initiations, passings and raisings, deaths, removals, suspensions, and expulsions of members, and rejections of candidates, with the respective dates of each of these occurrences, together with an account current of the dues of the preceding year; which list shall be signed by the Master, and attested by the Secretary. And each Lodge, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall, at the first Grand Annual Communication, to be holden in December next, furnish this Grand Lodge with a copy of its Bye-Laws, and report annually all alterations thereto.

Sect. 5. No letter or warrant of dispensation shall be granted for the formation of a new Lodge, but upon the petition of at least seven known and approved Master Masons, in which their first Master and Wardens shall be nominated; and which petition shall be accompanied by a recommendation from some Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

Sect. 6. For every warrant of dispensation for the formation of a new Lodge, there shall be paid into the grand Treasury the sum of fifteen dollars; and for every charter of Constitution the sum of ten dollars; and the further sum of three dollars in addition, to be paid to the Grand Secretary; which said sums shall be paid before the delivery of the warrant or charter. And in all other cases, where the seal of the Grand

Lodge is required to be affixed, there shall be paid by the applicant to the Grand Secretary, the sum of two dollars and fifty cents.

Sect. 7. Every Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall pay into the Grand Treasury, annually, the sum of twenty-five cents for each member thereof, as a grand charity fund; and a further sum of fifty cents, annually, for each member belonging to their Lodge at the time of making their Grand Annual Communication: Provided, That no Lodge shall pay a less sum than five dollars, exclusive of taxes, and exclusive of the contribution for charity. And the Masters and Wardens or representatives of any Lodge, shall not take their seats in the Grand Lodge until all their dues be paid, and the Treasurer's receipt therefor be produced. And in case of the neglect or refusal of any Lodge to pay the same, at or before the next regular Communication thereafter, unless reasonable excuse be offered, such Lodge shall be stricken off the books of the Grand Lodge, and their warrant or charter considered null and void. But on proper application to the Grand Lodge, making due returns and payment of dues, they may be restored to their former rank and privileges, if the Grand Lodge shall judge proper.

Sect. 8. Every member of the Grand Lodge, and every visiting Brother, shall pay into the Grand Treasury, at each meeting, the sum of one dollar.

Sect. 9. Any member of the Grand Lodge who shall neglect or refuse to pay his annual dues for two successive Communications, shall be suspended or expelled, as the Grand Lodge may determine: and no member of the Grand Lodge shall be permitted to vote at any election for Grand Officers until he shall have paid his dues.

Sect. 10. It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer to lay before the Grand Lodge, at each Grand Annual Communication, all his accounts, for inspection and adjustment, and shall immediately deliver over to his successor any balance which may be found due from him to the Grand Lodge, together with all the books, papers, and documents belonging to his office, when legally called on.

Sect. 11. All appeals from any subordinate Lodge shall be in writing, and left with the Grand Secretary; and the appellant shall give the other party at least one month's notice thereof: Provided that time shall have elapsed between taking the appeal and the next Grand Communication; or otherwise the Grand Lodge shall not proceed to hear and determine the same.

Sect. 12. When any Brother is excluded by any particular Lodge, for malpractices, information thereof shall be sent to the Grand Lodge, and to all the Lodges under this jurisdiction, as soon as convenient; but no Lodge, within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, nor any member thereof, shall publish, or in any manner make public, the suspension or expulsion of any member, except it be to the fraternity, or within the walls of a Lodge. But nothing herein contained shall prevent the Grand Lodge giving publicity to such expulsion, should they deem it proper to do so.

Sect. 13. In all cases of the suspension, expulsion, or restoration of a member, two-thirds of the votes of the members present shall be required: and in all cases of the restoration of a Mason suspended or expelled by any Lodge, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, the same majority shall be required.

Sect. 14. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master,

Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, for the time being, or a majority of them, shall be a Standing Committee of Charity, under whose direction the grand charity funds shall be distributed.

Sect. 15. Each member of the Grand Lodge shall be entitled to a certificate thereof, which shall entitle him to admission into any Lodge under this jurisdiction, and to all the rights and privileges which the members of such Lodges respectively possess.

Sect. 16. For every certificate granted by the Grand Lodge to any member of any subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction, there shall be paid into the Grand Treasury the sum of one dollar. And no certificate shall be granted to any Brother without a previous certificate from the Lodge of which he is a member, setting forth his regular behavior, and that he had discharged all his dues to the Lodge.

Sect. 17. Upon the demise of any Lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, the last Secretary and Treasurer of said Lodge, or in case of their death, removal, or absence, the surviving Brethren, shall, within six months thereafter, surrender to the Grand Secretary all the books, papers, jewels, funds, and furniture of the Lodge so demised.

Sect. 18. Every Lodge within this jurisdiction, may exercise all the rights of discipline over Masons (not members thereof, or of any other Lodge) who reside in the immediate vicinity of such Lodge, so far as may relate to the conduct and behavior of such Masons, whilst resident in the vicinity of such Lodge.

Sect. 19. No Brother, of whatever degree, shall be admitted as a member of any Lodge within this jurisdiction,

without producing evidence of his having regularly demitted from the Lodge to which he previously belonged: nor shall any Brother, who shall have been initiated in one Lodge, be passed or raised in any other Lodge without permission of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Officers in vacation.

Sect. 20. Each subordinate Lodge shall pay into the Grand Treasury the sum of one dollar for every person initiated in said Lodge.

Sect. 21. The Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, or either of them, in conjunction with the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, shall have the right to grant dispensations to new Lodges applying for the same in the recess of the Grand Lodge, upon their complying with the requisitions of the Constitution and Bye-Laws; and the Grand Secretary shall, upon their order, issue the same.

Sect. 22. Whenever any alteration or amendment shall be proposed to these Bye-Laws, it must be reduced to writing and read from the chair, when it may be debated; and if concurred in by two-thirds of the members present, it shall become a part of these Bye-Laws.



PROCEEDINGS, &c.

At a special communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, held at the State House in the town of Vandalia, on Monday the third day of January, A. L. 5826.

PRESENT.

M. W. JAMES HALL, G. M.

M. W. SHADRACH BOND, P. G. M.

R. W. HENRY H. SNOW, D. G. M.

R. W. HENRY L. WEBB, G. S. W. Pro tem.

R. W. HENRY I. MILLS, G. J. W. Pro tem.

R. W. J. O. WATTLES, G. Treasurer.

R. W. WM. H. BROWN, G. Secretary.

Brother JOHN WHITAKER, G. Marshal.

Brother JOSEPH ENOS, G. Tyler.

Brother J. Ewing of Vandalia Lodge, brothers A. Hart, P. M. and David E. Cuyler of Olive Branch Lodge, brother M'Roberts of Vandalia Lodge, brothers A. Field and Henry L. Webb, of Union Lodge, brothers S. Dewey and Ossian M. Ross, of Frontier Lodge, brother George Webb, of Winchester Lodge, Ky. Levi Roberts, of Olive Branch Lodge, Valentine G. Bradley, of Vincennes Lodge, Israel Seward, of Hamilton Lodge, Ohio, William Ross, of Mystic Lodge, Massachusetts, brother Thomas James of Jackson Lodge No. 25, Missouri, brother Willis Hargrave, of Lawrence Lodge, and brother Nicholas Hansen.

On motion of brother D. G. Master,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the credentials of representatives attending this Grand Lodge from subordinate Lodges.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the returns of subordinate Lodges.

Brothers Hay, Hart, and Whitaker, were appointed a committee on the first, and brothers, Snow, Peebles, and Wattles, a committee on the second resolution.

The Grand Secretary made the following report:

The Grand Secretary reports, that during the vacation of the Grand Lodge, he has received the following communications, viz:

The proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky; of the District of Columbia; of Indiana; Tennessee; North Carolina, and Mississippi.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, with a list of officers for the year 5825.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Ohio, with the proceedings of that Lodge in relation to certain communications from the Grand Lodges of New-Hampshire and New-York.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, with a list of their officers for the year 5824 and 25, with their signatures.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, with a list of officers for the year 5825, with their signatures, and a request for information as to the formation and proceedings of this Grand Lodge; also a resolution passed by that Grand Lodge.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, with a list of officers and proceedings, &c.

A communication from Eden Lodge, No. 7.

A communication from C. C. Conway, M. of Western Star Lodge at Kaskaskia, in relation to the resolution passed at the last communication of this Grand Lodge.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Mississippi, with a list of officers for the year 5825, with their signatures.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, with a list of officers for the year 5825, with their signatures.

A communication from brother Philip Aglesworth, Worshipful Master, of Illion Lodge, No. 12, with a copy of the proceedings of said Lodge, and a return of their dispensation.

An application for a Charter at Kaskaskia.

A letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, with a list officers and proceedings, at their meeting in June, A. L. 5825.

A letter from brother D. G. Master, with his accounts, receipts, &c.

A communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, in relation to the memorial heretofore adopted by this Grand Lodge, to the Grand Lodge of Missouri in the case of E. C. Berry. And that he has paid for postage on letters and pamphlets addressed to him as Grand Secretary, the sum of three dollars and thirty-five cents, as near as he can now ascertain the same.

On motion of brother Wattles,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take under consideration the communications received during the vacation of this Grand Lodge from other Grand Lodges.

Ordered, That brothers, Wattles, Webb, and Mills, be that committee.

On motion of brother Snow,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take under consideration the communications received from individuals addressed to this Grand Lodge.

Ordered, That brothers, Snow, Brown, and Peebles, be that committee.

On motion of brother West,

The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, the Grand Annual Communication of this M. Worshipful Grand Lodge, was not held in conformity with the provisions of its by-laws; and whereas, an election of Grand Officers, has not been held as by them contemplated: Therefore,

Resolved, That the bye-laws of this Grand Lodge be dispensed with, and that this Grand Lodge proceed to the election for Grand Officers for the ensuing year to-morrow evening.

On motion of brother Snow,

Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed to audit the Treasurer's account.

Brothers, Snow and West, were appointed that committee.

A petition from certain brethren residing in Pike, Adams, and Calhoun, for a charter for a Lodge, to be located at Atlas, was read and referred to the committee on reports from Lodges.

The M. W. G. Lodge then adjourned 'till to-morrow evening.

WM. H. BROWN, G. Secretary.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4, A. L. 5826.

The M. W. Grand Lodge, assembled according to adjournment.

PRESENT.

M. W. JAMES HALL, G. M.

M. W. S. BOND, P. G. M.

R. W. HENRY H. SNOW, D. G. M.

R. W. J. Y. SAWYER, G. S. W.

R. W. T. C. BROWN, G. J. W. Pro tem.

R. W. J. O. WATTLES, G. Treasurer.

R. W. B. MILLS, G. Secretary, Pro. tem.

Brother JOSEPH ENOS, G. Tyler.

Brothers, R. H. Peebles, Webb G. Webb, H. L. Webb, A. Field, D. E. Cuyler, N. Buckmaster, O. M. Ross, Hay, Hart, H. I. Mills, H. Fellows, S. M'Roberts, James, Ewing, Owens, A. Prickett, members and visitors.

The committee to whom was referred the credentials of representatives from subordinate Lodges to this Grand Lodge, made the following report, which was concurred in by the Grand Lodge:

The committee to whom were referred the credentials of representatives from subordinate Lodges under this Grand Lodge, beg leave to report—that

J. O. Wattles is the representative of Palestine Lodge as their proxy; that John Whitaker is the representative of Union Lodge, being Junior Warden thereof; that Wm. H. Brown is the representative of Vandalia Lodge No. 5, as W. Master elect, and that Alexander Hart is the representative of Olive Branch Lodge, No. 4, as proxy of the W. Master thereof.

The committee have to remark, that brother Wattles is appointed by the Lodge instead of the officers thereof; that brother Brown has a certificate of election, and that brother Hart's credentials wants the seal of the W. Master. All of which is respectfully submitted.

The committee to whom were referred the communications from other Grand Lodges, made the following report, which was read and concurred in :

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois :

The committee to whom were referred the communications from other Grand Lodges, respectfully report—

That since the last Annual Grand Communication, the following communications have been received, namely :

Printed reports of the proceedings of the Grand Lodges of the District of Columbia, the States of Tennessee, Indiana, Mississippi, and North-Carolina, for the year 1824; and of Kentucky, New-York, and Virginia, for the year 1825.

Communications transmitting the signatures of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodges of New-York, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

A communication from the Grand Lodge of Ohio, transmitting their proceedings in relation to resolutions from the Grand Lodge of New-Hampshire and New-York, proposing the erection of a monument at Mount Vernon to the memory of our illustrious brother, G. Washington.

A communication from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, containing a report of their proceedings in the cases of brothers Wm. L. D. Ewing and E. C. Berry.

And a letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New-York.

In the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, your committee find the following resolutions :

“Resolved, That this Grand Lodge recognize the M. W. Grand Lodge of Illinois, and that brother Grand Secretary correspond with the said M. W. Grand Lodge, and transmit regularly an abstract of the proceedings of this Grand Lodge.

"Resolved, That any arrearages which may be due from any Lodge subordinate to this Grand Lodge, located in the State of Illinois, be, and the same are hereby remitted to said Lodge."

Your committee, while they state with regret and surprise, that this is the only acknowledgment of the receipt by any Grand Lodge of the communications addressed to them, and the only formal notice of recognition, cannot avoid expressing their sense of the candid and frank reception which our newly established Grand Lodge has met from our brethren in Kentucky, and their hope that this Grand Lodge will promptly acknowledge and reciprocate the brotherly feeling which has been thus evinced.

They also find a very paternal letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New-York, expressive of the surprise of the members of that Grand Lodge, at their not having received any communication from us of the causes and events which led to the establishment of this Masonic Institution, and requesting such information. This letter, in the opinion of your committee, is entitled to immediate attention, and should be referred for reply, to the suitable officers of the Grand Lodge, either to the Grand Master or Grand Secretary.

From the reports of several of the Grand Lodges before us, it appears, that active exertions are in operation among the craft, to obtain subscriptions for the erection of a Masonic Monument to the memory of Washington, and that several of the Grand Lodges of the U. S. have adopted measures to effect this object. Your committee, in noticing this subject, cannot withhold the expression of their entire approbation of any measure which may evince our respect for the virtues, and affection for the name of the illustrious

chief, whom we have been proud to number among our brothers, and submit the further consideration thereof to the Grand Lodge.

In reply to a memorial of this Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, soliciting a re-consideration of the cases of Wm. L. D. Ewing and Elijah C. Berry, we have received an abstract of their proceedings, by which it appears, that brother Ewing has been restored to his Masonic privileges; but that in the opinion of that Grand Lodge, the case of E. C. Berry does not merit a re-consideration. Your committee are aware of the delicacy of a further interference on our part in relation to this subject; but they cannot pass it over without remarking, that they are far from feeling satisfied, either with the decision of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, or with the reasons upon which that decision seems to be grounded. It will be for the Grand Lodge to decide whether any, and if any, what further steps should be taken in this affair.

The rest of the communications before us, contain only the ordinary reports and interchanges of Masonic information, none of which seem to demand any particular notice from this committee.

A communication from E. C. Berry, was presented and read, and

On motion of brother Wattles, it was

Ordered, That the said communication with the accompanying documents be referred to a committee of three.

Ordered, That the committee consist of brothers Wattles, West, and T. C. Brown.

On motion of brother D. G. Master,

Resolved, That all members of this Grand Lodge shall be entitled to only one vote as such, and one as representative from subordinate Lodges when serving as such.

The Grand Lodge then proceeded to ballot for officers of the Grand Lodge for the ensuing year; when the following persons were declared duly elected.

JAMES HALL, M. W. G. M.

JOHN Y. SAWYER, R. W. G. S. W.

BENJAMIN MILLS, R. W. G. J. W.

WM. H. BROWN, R. W. G. S.

JAMES O. WATTLES, R. W. G. T.

On motion of brother J. O. Wattles,

Resolved, That the installation of the officers elect, take place on to-morrow evening.

Ordered, That this Grand Lodge stand adjourned until to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock.

BENJAMIN MILLS, G. S. Pro. tem.

M. W. GRAND LODGE, JANUARY 5, A. L. 5826.

The Grand Lodge opened pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT.

The same officers and members as last evening, with the addition of brother Richard I. Hamilton, brother Webb and brother Wm. H. Brown, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Lodge was then dispensed with, and a Lodge of Past Masters opened, when the following Grand Officers, were duly installed, viz:

Brother JAMES HALL, M. W. G. M.

" JOHN Y. SAWYER, R. W. G. S. W.

" BENJAMIN MILLS, R. W. G. J. W.

" JAMES O. WATTLES, R. W. G. Treasurer.

" WILLIAM H. BROWN, R. W. G. Secretary.

By the M. W. Shadrach Bond, P. G. M. aided by the R. W. D. G. M. Henry H. Snow; when the Lodge of Past Master Masons was dispensed with, and a Lodge of Master

Masons opened, the Grand Officers in their respective places.

On motion of brother Wattles,

Resolved, That a Grand Orator be appointed to deliver an address to this Grand Lodge and the public, at the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge.

On motion of brother G. J. Warden,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire what articles are necessary to be procured for the use of this Grand Lodge, and that they report to-morrow evening.

Ordered, That brothers, B. Mills, Wattles, and Hamilton, be that committee.

The M. W. G. Lodge then adjourned till to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock.

M. W. GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, JANUARY 6,
A. L. 5826.

PRESENT.

M. W. JAMES HALL, G. M.

R. W. HENRY H. SNOW, D. G. M.

R. W. JOHN YORK SAWYER, G. S. W.

R. W. BENJAMIN MILLS, G. J. W.

R. W. JAMES O. WATTLES, G. T.

R. W. WM. H. BROWN, G. S.

Brother R. H. PEEBLES, G. S. D.

“ O. M. ROSS, G. J. D. pro. tem.

“ JOSEPH ENOS, G. Tyler.

Visiting brothers, Jotham Jayne, A. Philleo.

The R. W. G. J. Warden, from the committee appointed last evening, to ascertain what articles are necessary for the use of this Grand Lodge, made a report, which was concurred in. The G. J. W. also presented an engraved seal, and the following note:

Horatio Ball, begs leave to present to the members of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, an engraved seal, which he forwards by J. O. Wattles, Esq.

(Signed)

HORATIO BALL.

Vandalia, January 6, 1826.

On motion of brother Mills,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be presented to brother Horatio Ball, for the seal presented this Grand Lodge, and the same be adopted as the seal thereof.

On motion of brother Wattles,

Resolved, That any fees due by brother Ball to this Grand Lodge, if any there be, be and the same are remitted.

Brother Wattles, from the committee to whom was referred the reports of subordinate lodges, made the following report:

That the following Lodges, to-wit: Olive Branch, Union, Vandalia, Palestine, Greene, Hiram, Illion, and Frontier, have made their annual reports to the Grand Lodge, which appear satisfactory to the committee so far as a disposition to conform to our regulations, and the rules of Masonry is manifested. But your committee feel constrained to say, that in several of the communications there is much inaccuracy, and a failure to comply with all the regulations of the bye-laws, and on the part of the several Lodges, a total neglect to comply with their provisions, either by making their reports or sending their dues. But your committee believing this neglect to be more owing to a want of information on the part of delinquent Lodges than to wilful neglect, beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That brother Henry H. Snow, be appointed an agent on the part of this Grand Lodge, whose duty it shall be to visit all the subordinate Lodges, to introduce a uni-

form mode of working; to examine the bye-laws and proceedings of each Lodge; to settle the accounts of each, with the Grand Lodge, and receive the balances due, and make report at the next Grand Annual Communication.

Which report and resolution, was concurred in.

On motion of brother Snow,

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge disapproves of a resolution adopted in Olive Branch Lodge No. 4, on the day of their last election, allowing visiting brethren to vote in said election.

The following appointments were made by the Grand Master:

Brother HENRY H. SNOW, D. G. M.

“ ROBERT H. PEEBLES, G. S. D.

“ ERASTUS BROWN, G. J. D.

“ E. J. WEST, G. Marshal.

“ GUY W. SMITH, G. S. B.

“ CHARLES DUNN, G. Pursuivant.

“ HART FELLOWS and } G. Stewarts. (Stewards.)
“ JOHN WHITEAKER, }

“ JOSEPH ENOS, G. Tyler.

“ BENJAMIN MILLS, G. Orator.

The Lodge in the third degree of Masonry was dispensed with, and a Lodge of Past Master Masons opened, when brothers, Snow, Whiteaker, and Enos, were duly installed in their respective offices. The Lodge of Past Master Masons was then dispensed with, and the Lodge in the third degree of Masonry resumed; when the Grand Lodge adjourned 'till to-morrow evening, at 7 o'clock.

WM. H. BROWN, G. Secretary.

JANUARY 7, A. L. 5826.

The M. W. Grand Lodge opened pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT.

M. W. JAMES HALL, G. M.

R. M. HENRY SNOW, D. G. M.

R. W. R. I. HAMILTON, G. S. W. Pro. tem.

R. W. BENJAMIN MILLS, G. J. W.

R. W. JAMES O. WATTLES, G. T.

R. W. WM. BROWN, G. S.

Brother J. WHITEAKER, G. J. D. Pro. tem.

“ E. J. WEST, G. M.

Visiting brethren and members, S. M'Roberts, C. Slade, Diamond, and James.

Brother Snow, from the committee to whom was referred the communications from individuals, made the following report, which was concurred in:

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois:

The committee to whom were referred the communications from individuals addressed to this Grand Lodge, have had under consideration a communication from the Worshipful Master of Western Star Lodge No. 107, together with a petition from a number of Master Masons, residing in and near the town of Kaskaskia, praying for letters of dispensation; and beg leave to make the following report:

The object of the communication is, to ask from this Grand Lodge a charter of constitution. It appears from documents in possession of your committee, that T. J. V. Owen, is an officer of Western Star Lodge, No. 107; and that he is also recommended as one of the officers of the proposed Lodge. Conceiving it incompatible with the gen-

eral regulations of our institution, and contrary to the principles inculcated in the book of constitutions, that a Mason should be a member of more than one Lodge at the same time; your committee beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioners from Kaskaskia praying for a dispensation or charter, ought not to be granted.

Brother West, from the committee to whom was referred the memorial of E. C. Berry, made the following report, accompanied with a resolution:

The committee to whom was referred the petition of E. C. Berry, with the accompanying documents, report—

That after a careful examination of the subject, they have arrived at the conclusion which they are about to submit.—Your committee are fully aware of the delicacy with which the decision of a neighboring Grand Lodge, deserves to be treated, and of the impropriety of adhering with too much pertinacity to our opinions. But from all the documents before them, they cannot but believe, that the petitioner had been treated unkindly in being denied a reconsideration of proceedings, which seem to them, to have been irregular; and when it is recollected that the effect of this denial, is to brand the character of the petitioner with disgrace, and to exclude him forever from his Masonic privileges, they feel it a duty incumbent on them, to advise another effort on the part of this Grand Lodge, in his behalf. In making this recommendation, your committee have taken into consideration, the high standing of the petitioner as a citizen; his unblemished reputation as a man, and the entire absence of any offence in his Masonic or private deportment, other than that now under discus-

sion. A character so fair (in all other respects,) entitles the petitioner to an indulgent hearing on this occasion, and the sacredness of his situation as the head of a numerous family, gives him an imposing claim, as well upon the justice as the sympathy of his brethren. Your committee, therefore, while they freely disclaim any right, on the part of this Grand Lodge, to condemn the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, or any intention on their part so to do; and while they cheerfully concede the principle, that the jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge over the subject matter is sole and sovereign, believe that the case of E. C. Berry, imperiously calls for some further exertion in his behalf by this Grand Lodge. They therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed, whose duty it shall be to correspond with the Grand Lodge of Missouri upon the subject of the proceedings of the Vandalia Lodge and that Grand Lodge, in the case of E. C. Berry, to explain to them the views of this Grand Lodge, and to ask for such relief as they may deem right, and that Grand Lodge may be willing to concede.

Which report and resolution was adopted.

Ordered, That brothers, Sawyer and West, be that committee.

On motion of brother Brown,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the application of brother John Diamond, for relief, and report on Monday evening.

Ordered, That brothers Snow and Whiteaker, be that committee.

Brother Snow, from the committee to whom were referred the reports of subordinate Lodges, and the applica-

tion of brethren residing in and near the county of Pike, for a charter, made a report that the prayer of the petitioners ought to be granted; which report was concurred in.

On motion of brother West,

Resolved, That the R. W. Grand Secretary of the M. W. Grand Lodge, be, and he is hereby required to deliver over to the committee appointed by this Grand Lodge to correspond with the Grand Lodge of Missouri in case of E. C. Berry, all the papers, records and documents relative thereto; and that the committee return the same to this Grand Lodge, together with the correspondence, and report at its next Grand Annual Communication.

The Grand Lodge then adjourned until Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock.

WM. H. BROWN, G. Secretary.

TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 10, A. L. 5826.

The M. W. Grand Lodge of Illinois convened pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT.

M. W. JAMES HALL, G. M.

R. W. J. Y. SAWYER, G. S. W.

R. W. BENJAMIN MILLS, G. J. W.

R. W. WM. H. BROWN, G. Secretary.

Brother R. H. PEEBLES, G. S. D.

“ O. M. ROSS, G. J. D. pro. tem.

“ JOSEPH ENOS, G. Tyler.

Visiting brethren and members, brothers Webb, Philips, Whiteaker, West, D. Prickett, Wright, Ball, Newhall, Wilton, D. Blackwell, and T. C. Browne.

The committee to whom was referred the application of

brother John Diamond for relief; reported that the applicant was worthy of relief, but from the situation of the funds of this Grand Lodge, they reported the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a private subscription be opened for the relief of our said brother John Diamond, and that the members of this Grand Lodge, and other Masons, be requested to aid to the relief of brother Diamond.

Brother Snow from the committee on subordinate Lodges, made the following report, which was accompanied with a resolution:

The committee to whom were referred the returns of subordinate Lodges, beg leave to report—

That the dispensations granted Illion Lodge No. 12, and Frontier Lodge No. 13, in the recess, have been returned, together with their bye-laws, and copies of their proceedings under that dispensation. That they received their dispensations and acted under them for the first time on the 3d day of December 1825; and that their bye-laws and proceedings appear to have been correct, and strictly conformable to Masonic usage, with one exception. It is the opinion of your committee, that the brethren of that Lodge, have advanced candidates from one degree to another, and even for initiation, with too much rapidity; thereby leaving too little time, either to become acquainted with the lectures in the preceding degree, or for a strict enquiry into the character of the applicants. They therefore, beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge disapproves of the practice of advancing candidates to any degree until they shall have acquired a competent knowledge of the preceding degree.

Resolved, That a charter be granted to Frontier Lodge No. 13, and Illion Lodge No. 12.

Which resolution was adopted and the report agreed to.

The petition of brother George Webb, praying an investigation into certain charges preferred by brother Webb against brother James O. Wattles, for unmasonic conduct, was read, and,

On motion of brother G. S. Warden,

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be required to furnish brother Wattles a copy of the charges preferred against him by brother George Webb, and that a summons issue against brother Wattles requiring him to appear before the next regular Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, to answer the charges aforesaid, preferred by brother Webb.

On motion of brother Brown,

Resolved, That a charter be granted to Illion Lodge No. 12, and Frontier Lodge No. 13, upon payment of the sum due by the bye-laws for the issuing of a charter—with the fees due the officers for the dispensation and charters of those Lodges respectively.

On motion of brother Mills, and amended by brother West,

Resolved, That so much of the 8th section of the bye-laws of this Grand Lodge, as requires the payment of one dollar from visiting brethren, be, and the same is hereby repealed, and that from and after the adoption of this resolution, seventy-five cents only shall be exacted only in lieu of that sum in that part of the bye-laws of this M. W. Grand Lodge, hereby repealed, mentioned.

On motion of brother Snow,

Resolved, That brother Grand Secretary cause to be

printed the constitution and bye-laws of this Grand Lodge, and a copy of the proceedings of the present Grand Annual Communication, and to transmit a copy of the same to each of the Grand Lodges in the United States, and of the British Provinces of North America, to each of our subordinate Lodges, and to each of our Grand Officers.

On motion,

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be authorized to pay the account of brother Grand Tyler for his services and necessities furnished this Grand Lodge at its present Grand Annual Communication.

Resolved, That the thanks of this M. W. Grand Lodge, be presented to the Honorable Senate for the accommodation furnished this Grand Lodge in the use of their chamber, during the present Grand Annual Communication.

No further business appearing before the Grand Lodge, it was closed in peace and harmony.

WILLIAM H. BROWN, Grand Secretary.

Sir and Brother—I herewith transmit to you the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Grand Lodge of this State, together with the proceedings thereof, at the last Special Communication.

Respectfully and Fraternally, Yours,

WM. H. BROWN, Grand Secretary.

Address of the Grand Secretary,

WM. H. BROWN,

Vandalia, Illinois.

Grand Lodge of the State of Pennsylvania

PROCEEDINGS

1827

OF THE

GRAND LODGE

Reported *March 1828*
OF THE

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

BEGUN AND HELD AT THE TOWN OF VANDALIA,
ON THE THIRD DAY OF DECEMBER,
A. L. 5826.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LODGE.

KASKASKIA, ILLINOIS:

PRINTED BY L. O. SHRADER.

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1827.

PROCEEDINGS.

At the regular Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, opened at the State House in the town of Vandalia, in the State of Illinois, on Monday, the 3d day of December, A. L. 5826,

Present,

M. W. James Hall, G. M.

M. W. Shradrach Bond, P. G. M.

R. W. Guy W. Smith, G. S. W. pro tem.

R. W. Benjamin Mills, G. J. W.

R. W. William H. Brown, G. S.

Bro. R. H. Peebles, G. S. D.

Thomas Reynolds, G. J. D. pro tem.

Joseph Enos, G. Tyler.

Members and Visitors.—Brothers Thomas J. McGuire, of Libanus Lodge; Thomas J. V. Owen, John Lacey, of Western Star Lodge; Philip Aylesworth, of Illion Lodge, No. 12; Samuel C. Pierce, of Greene Lodge, No. 11; David Pricket, of Libanus Lodge; Alexander F. Grant, of Palestine Lodge, No. 10; Thomas James and Jesse W. Cooper.

The M. W. P. G. M. presented a petition from Western Star Lodge, at Kaskaskia, which was read; and,

On motion of Brother T. Reynolds, was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, *Ordered*, That a committee be appointed to examine the credentials of delegates, and the returns from subordinate Lodges.

Brothers G. W. Smith, Peebles and Aylesworth were appointed that committee.

The committee, who was appointed at the last regular meeting of this Grand Lodge to request of the Grand Lodge of Missouri a rehearing in the case of E. C. Berry, presented to this Grand Lodge a letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, with their proceedings in the premises; which were read.

The Grand Lodge then adjourned until to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock.

W. H. BROWN, G. S.

Tuesday Evening, Dec. 4, A. L. 5826.

Present,

The same Grand Officers as on yesterday.

Members and Visitors.—Brothers Thomas J. V. Owen, Wm. B. Archer, T. J. McGuire, A. Prickett, Joel Wright, J. S. Smith, Thomas James, Bowling Greene, J. W. Cooper, David Prickett, J. Lacey, J. Warnock, S. C. Pierce and N. Sanburn.

The committee to whom was referred the certificates, returns, etc., from the Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, made the following report, which was concurred in:

“The committee to whom was referred the certificates, returns, etc., from subordinate Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, report that they have had before them the bye-laws of Illion Lodge, No. 12; that they have read them, and deem them satisfactory, and in accordance with the usages of Masonry.

“They have also had the returns from Illion Lodge, No. 12; Greene Lodge, No. 11, and Palestine Lodge, No. 10, which are in form.

“They also find from certificates produced, that Brothers

Grant and Smith are appointed representatives from Palestine Lodge, No. 10; Brother S. C. Pierce, from Greene Lodge, No. 11, all of which are respectfully submitted to this Grand Lodge."

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand Lodge diverse communications received by him since the last meeting of this Grand Lodge, which,

On motion of Brother G. J. Warden,

Were referred to a select committee.

Brothers G. J. Warden, Pierce and Grant were appointed that committee by the M. W. G. Master.

Brother Hall introduced the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That Elijah C. Berry be, and he is hereby, restored to the privileges of Masonry."

On motion, *Ordered*, That said resolution lie upon the table.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That on Monday evening next the Grand Lodge will proceed to the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing year."

The Grand Lodge then adjourned till Saturday evening at 7 o'clock.

W. H. BROWN, G. S.

M. W. Grand Lodge, Dec. 11, A. L. 5826.

There not being a quorum present on Saturday evening, to which time the M. W. Grand Lodge was adjourned, the M. W. Grand Master adjourned the same until this time, when it was opened pursuant to adjournment.

Present.

M. W. James Hall, G. M.

R. W. Guy W. Smith, G. S. W. pro tem.

R. W. Benjamin Mills, G. J. W.

R. W. William H. Brown, G. S.

Brothers R. H. Peebles, G. S. D.

Thomas Reynolds, G. J. D. pro tem.

Joseph Enos, G. Tyler.

Representatives from Subordinate Lodges.

Philip Aylesworth, W. M., Illion Lodge, No. 12.

G. W. Smith and A. F. Grant, of Palestine Lodge,
No. 10.

Harry Wilton, W. M., of Eden Lodge, No. 7.

Wm. H. Brown, W. M., of Vandalia Lodge, No. 5.

George Webb, S. W., of Albion Lodge, No. 9.

B. W. Brooks, W. M., of Union Lodge, No. 6.

Visiting Brethren—Henry I. Mills, T. J. McGuire, Wm.
B. Archer, D. Hay, Thomas James, John Ewing, Jesse
Griggs, James Turney, Bowling Greene, John Lacey and
Abner Field.

On motion,

Resolved, That so much of the by-laws be dispensed
with as to permit officers of subordinate Lodges now pres-
ent to take their seats, and that members of this Grand
Lodge who have not paid their dues shall be permitted to
vote in this Grand Lodge.

On motion of Brother Aylesworth,

Resolved, That all diplomas issued to individuals from
any Lodge subordinate to this Grand Lodge shall emanate
from and be under the seal of this Grand Lodge, and that
the Grand Secretary be required to procure one hundred
diplomas, to be distributed among the subordinate Lodges.

A communication was received from the R. W. D. G.
Master, which was read.

The Grand Lodge then proceeded to consider the reso-

lution in relation to E. C. Berry, and after some time spent therein, the further consideration thereof was postponed until to-morrow evening.

The petition of the officers of Western Star Lodge was taken up, and

On motion of Brother Thomas Reynolds, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master, when he shall be satisfied that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has consented for Western Star Lodge to surrender its warrant, and become a subordinate of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, shall direct a warrant to be issued authorizing such brethren as shall be recommended by Western Star Lodge to be installed as officers, and open and hold a Lodge under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Illinois; and that such warrant be issued gratis, except the Grand Secretary's fee for making out the same.

Brother T. J. McGuire presented an account for printing the proceedings of this Grand Lodge in the year 1824, a balance of \$8.45 being yet due.

On motion,

Resolved, That the Grand Treasurer pay the same out of any moneys in his hands belonging to this Grand Lodge.

The committee to which were referred the communications received from Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge, made the following report and resolutions, which were concurred in and adopted:

"The committee to whom was referred the communications from other Grand Lodges, having attentively considered the subject submitted to them, respectfully report:

"That the state of Masonry, as exhibited by the report of

the proceedings of the various Grand Lodges submitted to this committee, presents the most flattering and encouraging prospects. These are discernible in the augmented evidences of intelligence with which many of these reports are fraught, and the numerous indications of the cultivation of the mild affections, apparent in the manner in which controversies are conducted upon matters in dispute, which have arisen between some of the Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge. Your committee have noticed with peculiar concern and solicitude, a determination expressed by the Grand Lodge of the State of Maine, in relation to certain changes in the mode of administering the Masonic degrees; and have perused, with great satisfaction, the enlightened correspondence upon this subject, between that Lodge and the Grand Lodge of the State of Pennsylvania. After the most careful investigation of the principles and ancient usages of Masonry in this respect, they cannot resist the conclusion that the change proposed by the Grand Lodge of Maine, would be a violation of immemorial Masonic usages, for which they have in vain sought a justification in the emergency of the case, or the necessities of the order. Improvements in Masonry cannot be expected from any change in its mysteries, but are the legitimate result of a successful cultivation of the moral virtues. Your committee are also constrained to remark that they viewed with peculiar regret the latitude and freedom of expression in which the Grand Lodge of Maine thought proper to clothe their communication; they are well aware that approved Masonic treatises contain many expressions which convey to the mind from which "the veil has been removed" full ideas upon the subjects of which they treat, but to the

uninitiated, "it is a world of darkness in which they have no clue to conduct them to the fountain of truth." These remarks, your committee beg leave to observe, proceed only from the kindest and best feelings, and what they consider an imperative regard to the most important interests of Masonry, and not from any disposition to find cause of wanton complaint with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maine, with whom they desire to cultivate the spirit of Masonic intercourse and friendship.

"Your committee discover in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey a proposition to abolish the practice of publishing printed lists of expulsions, suspensions and rejections by the Lodges within whose jurisdictions such cases occur, and concurring with that Grand Lodge that it cannot in any wise promote the benefit of the institution and is uncongenial with its principles 'that the frailties, vices, and imperfections of an unworthy or a thoughtless brother should be registered in a catalogue' and published to the world, recommend the adoption of a similar resolution by this Grand Lodge.

"In the proceedings of the remaining Grand Lodges whose reports were submitted to this committee, with the exception of that of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, in which the attention of this Grand Lodge is particularly invited to the case of E. C. Berry, your committee find nothing which claims the peculiar attention of this Grand Lodge; they, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Maine be respectfully requested to reconsider the resolution adopted by them on the 8th of January, 1824, proposing a new mode in which the degrees of Masonry may be conferred.

“Resolved, That in due observance of the principles of Masonry, and the ancient usages of our order, this Grand Lodge feel themselves bound to refuse to recognize any person as a Mason known to be initiated in the manner proposed by the Grand Lodge of Maine.

“Resolved, That the present practice of reporting expulsions, suspensions and rejections, in all cases by the different Grand Lodges to each other, is unnecessary, and should be abolished, and that this Grand Lodge will hereafter report no such expulsion, suspension or rejection, until it has been decided in the Grand Lodge that the flagrancy of the particular case demands it.”

The Grand Lodge then went into the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing year, and upon counting the ballots it appeared that

Guy W. Smith was elected M. W. G. Master.

Benjamin Mills, R. W. G. S. Warden.

Philip Aylesworth, R. W. G. J. Warden.

John Warnock, R. W. G. Secretary.

Robert H. Peebles, R. W. G. Treasurer.

The Grand Lodge in the third degree was then dispensed with, and R. W. Philip Aylesworth was duly installed in ample form by the M. W. Master, when,

The Grand Lodge was adjourned until to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock.

W. H. BROWN. G. S.

M. W. Grand Lodge, Dec. 12, A. L. 5826. 1827

The Grand Lodge was opened pursuant to adjournment.

Present:

M. W. James Hall, G. M.

R. W. G. W. Smith, G. S. W. pro tem.

R. W. B. Mills, G. J. W. pro tem.

R. W. W. H. Brown, G. Sec.

Bro. T. Reynolds, G. J. W.

Bro. R. H. Peebles, G. J. D.

Bro. Joseph Enos, G. Tyler.

The same representatives from Lodges as on the preceding evening, Bro. Peebles acting as the proxy of Bro. Aylesworth.

Visiting Brethren—F. Hollman, J. M. Duncan, Bowling Greene, Bro. Hunsaker, H. I. Mills, James Turney.

The Grand Lodge then proceeded to consider the resolution in the case of E. C. Berry, and adopted the same as follows, to wit:

In the Affirmative—Palestine Lodge, Eden Lodge, Albion Lodge, Union Lodge, Grand Master, Bros. Smith, Reynolds, Duncan, Henry I. Mills, James Turney.

In the Negative—Vandalia Lodge, Benjamin Mills, W. H. Brown, R. H. Peebles and Joseph Enos.

Before this vote was taken, a communication from E. C. Berry was received and read.

Bro. Webb laid before the Grand Lodge a statement in relation to Albion Lodge, and submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Bro. Henry I. Mills take charge of the furniture of Albion Lodge; that the Secretary of said Lodge is required to deliver all records and papers into his hands, and he is hereby authorized to settle with the former Treasurer, and collect all moneys due said Lodge, and pay them over to the order of the M. W. G. Master.

Resolved, That the operations of Albion Lodge, No. 9, be, and they are hereby, suspended.

The Grand Lodge in the third degree was then dispensed

with, and opened in the fourth degree, when the M. W. Grand Master-elect, Bro. Guy W. Smith; the R. W. Grand Senior Warden-elect, Bro. Benjamin Mills, and the R. W. Robert H. Peebles, Grand Treasurer-elect, were installed into their respective offices, in ample form, by the M. W. Grand Master, James Hall.

The Grand Lodge in the fourth degree was then dispensed with, and the Lodge in the third degree resumed, when

The Grand Lodge adjourned until Monday evening next, at 7 o'clock.

W. H. BROWN, G. S.

GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS, Dec. 20, A. L. 5826.

There not being a quorum at the time, the Grand Lodge stood adjourned; the same was adjourned by the M. W. Grand Master till this time, when it was opened pursuant to adjournment.

Present:

M. W. Guy W. Smith, G. M.

R. W. Benjamin Mills, G. S. W.

R. W. David Blackwell, G. J. W. pro tem.

R. W. William H. Brown, G. S. pro tem.

R. W. Robert H. Peebles, G. Treasurer.

Bro. Thomas Reynolds, G. J. D. pro tem.

Joseph Enos, G. Tyler.

Visiting Brethren—Thomas James and Ossian M. Ross.

The petition of John Gillmore, of Pike County, Illinois, was read, and,

On motion of Bro. G. S. W.,

The said petition was laid upon the table.

The petition of sundry brethren residing at Fever River, for a charter for a Lodge at that place, recommended by Frontier Lodge, was received, and,

On motion of Bro. Mills,
Referred to a select committee.

Ordered, That Bros. Mills, Reynolds, and Brown be that committee.

The return of Frontier Lodge, No. 13, was received and referred to the committee on reports from Lodges.

Bros. Wattles and H. I. Mills were added to the committee on reports from Lodges.

The letter and documents of George Webb, in support of his charges against Bro. Wattles, were laid before the Lodge, and referred to a select committee, consisting of Bros. Hall, Reynolds and Brown.

The W. Master, in pursuance of an order of Vandalia Lodge, No. 5, surrendered the charter of said Lodge, which was received.

On motion of Bro. Brown,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to examine the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and make report thereof at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Ordered, That Bros. G. S. W., Ossian M. Ross and Hall be that committee.

No further business appearing, the Grand Lodge was adjourned until Monday evening next.

W. H. BROWN, G. S. pro tem.

M. W. GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS, Jan. 1, A. L.
5827.

The Grand Lodge was opened pursuant to adjournment.

Present:

M. W. Benjamin Mills, G. M. pro tem.

R. W. ——— Jennings, G. S. W. pro tem.

R. W. Ossian M. Ross, G. J. W. pro tem.

R. W. Alexander F. Grant, G. S. pro tem.

R. W. R. H. Peebles, G. Treasurer.

Bro. Thomas Reynolds, G. J. D. pro tem.

Bro. Joseph Enos, G. Tyler.

Visiting Brethren—Abrm. Prickett, J. O. Wattles, D. Hay, J. Y. Sawyer, E. J. West, N. Hansen, R. I. Hamilton, James Hall, H. I. Mills, Bowling Greene, John Lacey, Thomas J. McGuire and Abner Field.

Bro. Hansen produced his credentials as proxy to represent LaFayette Lodge, and submitted the report of said Lodge, both of which,

On motion of Bro. Wattles, were referred to the committee on reports from subordinate Lodges to this Lodge.

The M. W. G. Master submitted the petition of sundry brethren, representing their intention to form a new Lodge in the Township of Shawneetown, in the County of Gallatin, to be called Cincinnatus, and praying for a dispensation or warrant of constitution from this Grand Lodge.

And on motion of Bro. Reynolds,

Leave was granted the petitioners to withdraw their petition, because it did not appear they had settled their accounts with the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, to which they had formerly been a subordinate Lodge, and that they were not recommended by a Lodge subordinate to this Grand Lodge. *Ordered*, also, that the Grand Secretary inform the petitioners of such reasons.

Bro. Peebles, from the committee to which was referred the report of Frontier Lodge, No. 13, reported as follows:

"Your committee, to which was referred the report of Frontier Lodge, No. 13, beg leave to report, that they have examined the minutes of the proceedings of said Lodge, and find that they have been in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of this Grand Lodge and the principles of Masonry, except that there has been no return of their by-laws."

Which report was, on motion, laid on the table.

Bro. Reynolds, from the committee to which was referred the charges exhibited against Bro. Wattles, by Bro. Webb, begged leave to report at the next grand annual communication, which was granted.

M. W. Grand Master pro tem. announced the following appointments by the M. W. Grand Master:

Bro. Thomas Reynolds, Deputy Grand Master.

Bro. B. W. Brooks, Grand Senior Deacon.

Bro. Harry Wilton, Grand Junior Deacon.

Bro. A. B. Dake, Grand Marshal.

Bro. Sheldon Lockwood, Grand Sword Bearer.

Bro. Joel Phelps, Grand Pursuivant.

Bro. Samuel C. Pierce and }
Bro. Frederick Hollman, } Grand Stewards.

Bro. Joseph Enos, Grand Tyler.

Bro. James Hall, Grand Orator.

On motion of Bro. Wattles,

Ordered, That the committee to which was referred the petition of sundry brethren on Fever River be discharged from the further consideration thereof, and that a charter be issued by this Grand Lodge agreeable to the prayer of said petitioners.

On motion of Bro. Wattles,

Ordered, That the committee, to which were referred the certificate of Bro. Hansen and the report of La Fayette Lodge, be discharged from the further consideration thereof, and that Bro. Hansen be recognized as the deputy of said Lodge.

On motion of Bro. Wattles,

The vote on the disposition of the petition of the brethren at Shawneetown was reconsidered, and, on his motion, the rules were dispensed with, and a charter ordered to be issued agreeable to the prayer of said petitioners.

No further business being before the Grand Lodge, it was adjourned until Wednesday evening next at six o'clock.

ALEX F. GRANT, G. S. pro tem.

GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS, Jan. 3, 5827.

There not being a quorum of the Grand Lodge, the same was adjourned by the M. W. Master until

JANUARY 23, 5827.

when the same was opened in due form pursuant to adjournment.

Present.

M. W. James Hall, G. M. pro tem.

R. W. John Warnock, G. S. W. pro tem.

R. W. Ossian M. Ross, G. J. W. pro tem.

R. W. Robert H. Peebles, G. Treasurer.

R. W. Thomas Reynolds, G. J. D. pro tem.

Brethren—Henry I. Mills, Samuel McRoberts, John M. Robinson and Bowling Greene.

On motion of Bro. D. G. Master, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That Bro. James Hall be, and he is hereby, authorized to install the first officers of the Cincinnati Lodge."

On motion of Bro. B. Mills, the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That the Grand Treasurer be authorized to discharge the dues of this Grand Lodge to Bro. Grand Tyler, for tyling at this Grand Annual Communication.”

On motion of Bro. R. H. Peebles, it was ordered,

“That the Grand Secretary be directed to cause the journal of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge at its present session, as soon as they may be printed, to be distributed, one copy to each subordinate Lodge, one copy to each member of this Grand Lodge, and one copy to each Grand Lodge in the United States, and to such other Lodges as may be in correspondence with us.”

The committee on reports from subordinate Lodges, having first obtained leave, made the following report:

“The committee on reports from subordinate Lodges have examined the proceedings of Hiram Lodge, and report they are in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of this Grand Lodge, and the principles of Masonry.”

On motion of Bro. Benjamin Mills, it was

“Resolved, That Bro. Henry H. Snow be authorized to install the first officers of the Lodge at Fever River.”

The Grand Lodge in the third degree was then dispensed with and opened in the fourth, when the R. W. Thomas Reynolds was duly installed in ample form by the M. W. G. M. pro tem, and the R. W. John Warnock was duly installed.

There being no further business, the Grand Lodge was then duly closed in peace and harmony.

JOHN WARNOCK, G. Sec’y.

THE WESTERN STAR LODGE, No. —.

Having traced the history of Grand Lodge from its organization, December 9, 1822, to its last known communication, January 23, 1827, we now take up the record of "The Western Star Lodge, No. —," under warrant from Grand Lodge of Illinois, bearing date "14th day of February, A. L. 5827, A. D. 1827."

Our "ancient" brethren were not such sticklers for law and regulations as we "moderns," for it was then believed that a Lodge could hold under any Grand Lodge which would grant it a charter, though there was a Grand Lodge in its own State. That doctrine was even held for many years after the formation of our present Grand Lodge, several Grand Lodges, including Missouri and Wisconsin, having chartered Lodges in Illinois as late as 1846, and Grand Lodge of Missouri maintained a District Deputy Grand Master in this State until about the same date. The facts are that it was so difficult for a Lodge to get a transfer from the Grand Lodge from which it received its charter that it might accept one from the Grand Lodge of its own State that several died in the effort. As late as 1845 several Lodges in Illinois were working under charters from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and only in 1846 was the charter of Far West Lodge, No. 29, of Galena, surrendered to Grand Lodge of Missouri, and dispensations for Galena Lodge U. D., Galena, and Kavanaugh Lodge U. D., Jo Daviess County, returned to Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and these Lodges brought under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge of Illinois.

With such a state of facts, it can be readily understood

how it was that "The Western Star Lodge, No. 107," of Kaskaskia, did not for many years come under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and, as a matter of fact, as will be seen, never did become a constituent of that Grand Lodge, although it was one of the founders of that Grand body, and one of its members. Brother Shadrach Bond was its first Grand Master. From some cause or other, not necessary now to look up, the charter of that first Lodge in Illinois was not surrendered, and the Lodge released by Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania until 1827. At the communication of Grand Lodge of Illinois, December 3, 1826, application was made for a charter for Western Star Lodge, which resulted in the presentation of the following resolution, submitted by Brother Thomas Reynolds, one of its own members, and its adoption by Grand Lodge:

"Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master, when he shall be satisfied that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has consented for Western Star Lodge to surrender its warrant, and become a subordinate of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, shall direct a warrant to be issued authorizing such brethren as shall be recommended by Western Star Lodge to be installed as officers and open and hold a Lodge under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Illinois; and that such warrant be issued gratis, except the G. Secretary's fee for making out the same."

It will be seen in these records that Brother Thomas Reynolds, as well as Governor Bond, was a member and officer of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and that they were the representatives in that body of "The Western Star Lodge, No. 107," from the organization of the Grand Lodge of Illinois to the end of its existence, although their Lodge made report to and paid Grand Lodge dues to Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

It also appears that Masonic courtesy was carried so far in those days as to require the Lodge asking affiliation with the Grand Lodge of its own State that it show proof of surrender of charter to its mother Grand Lodge, and consent of same to join the new body.

How much more fraternal were those requirements than the compulsory legislation of more recent times, as enacted in many of our Grand Lodges!

The Western Star Lodge, No. 107, having complied with resolution of Grand Lodge of Illinois, returned its warrant to Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and received consent to become a subordinate of its own State Grand Lodge, the brethren of "The Western Star Lodge" were presented with a warrant from Brother Guy W. Smith, M. W. Grand Master, and the Lodge was duly formed and consecrated by one of its own members, Brother Thomas Reynolds, the R. W. Deputy Grand Master of Illinois.

It speaks well for the Masonic interest evidenced by Governor Bond's presence that he was installed the Master of this Lodge, as also of that of Brother Reynolds, who became its Treasurer.

Through the kindness of friends before named, we have been placed in possession of the records of this new Lodge. "The Western Star Lodge, No. —," which was born but to die before it received a number, and for the reason that the Grand Lodge which gave it life ceased itself to live, owing to the antimasonic political excitement of the times. These records are so interesting, particularly the code of laws, that we give them in full.

"The Western Star Lodge, No. —.

"Minutes of the Proceedings had at the Installation of The Western Star Lodge, No. —, at Kaskaskia, in the State of Illinois, on the 24th day of June, A. L. 5828, A. D. 1828.

"Pursuant to a previous notice to the members to The Western Star Lodge, No. 107, by the Rt. Worshipful Thomas Reynolds, Deputy Grand Master of the Rt. Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, assigning this day for the consecration of The Western Star Lodge, No. —, and installing of the officers under a warrant obtained from the said Rt. Worshipful Grand Lodge, bearing date the 14th day of February, A. L. 5827, A. D. 1827.

"The following named members and visiting brethren assembled at the Lodge Room at 9 a. m.:

"Members—

"Shadrach Bond, P. M.

"Wm. C. Greenup, P. M.

"Thos. I. V. Owens, M. M.

"Jesse W. Cooper, M. M.

"Saml. Walker, P. M.

"Visiting Brethren—

"Rich'd. S. Dorsey, M. M.

"Ed. Roberts, P. M.

"Ferdinand Onger, M. M.

"Hypolite Menard, M. M.

"John Atkins, M. M.

"C. C. Conway, P. M.

"Tho. Reynolds, P. M.

"Jacob Freeman, M. M.

"Whereupon the Lodge was opened in due form, accord-

ing to ancient custom, in the first step in Masonry. Officered as follows, to-wit:

"Shadrach Bond, W. M.

"Wm. C. Greenup, S. W.

"Tho. I. V. Owens, J. W.

"Sam'l Walker, Secretary.

"Tho. Reynolds, Treasurer.

"Jacob Freeman, S. D.

"Ed Roberts, J. D.

"C. C. Conway, Tyler.

"No business appearing in this step, a Fellow Crafts Lodge was opened in due form, and, no business in this step, a Master Mason's Lodge was opened in due form. No business appearing in this step of Masonry, after those who were not Past Masters having retired, a Past Masters' Lodge was opened in due form. Officered as follows, to wit:

"William C. Greenup, W. M. pro tem.

"Edmund Roberts, S. W. pro tem.

"Samuel Walker, J. W. pro tem.

"Shadrach Bond, Sect. pro tem.

"Thomas Reynolds, Treas. pro tem.

"Clement C. Conway, Tyler pro tem.

"Whereupon Shadrach Bond, M. M., named in the warrant aforesaid, was duly installed by the Rt. Worshipful Deputy Grand Master as Master of this Lodge, in due form, according to ancient usage. No further business appearing in the Past Masters Lodge, the Past Masters Lodge was closed and a Master Masons Lodge was opened, when the brethren above named who were not Past Masters were again admitted and whereupon William C. Greenup was duly installed Senior Warden, and Thomas I. V. Owens, Junior Warden, of this Lodge in due form.

"The Worshipful Master was pleased to appoint Jesse W. Cooper, Secretary, and Samuel Walker, Treasurer, and Clement C. Conway, Tyler, of this Lodge, and Jacob Freeman, Senior Deacon pro tem., and Hypolite Menard, Junior Deacon pro tem., who severally took their places and stations accordingly.

"Whereupon the Lodge walked in procession from the Lodge Room to Brother Frederick Holden's and partook of some refreshment, and at High Meridian returned again in like order to the COURT HOUSE AND LODGE, when they were joined by the following named visiting brethren:

"Joseph Grafton, P. M.

"Richard M. Young, P. M.

"Samuel Smith, P. M.

"John Oaklass, M. M.

"James Clark, M. M.

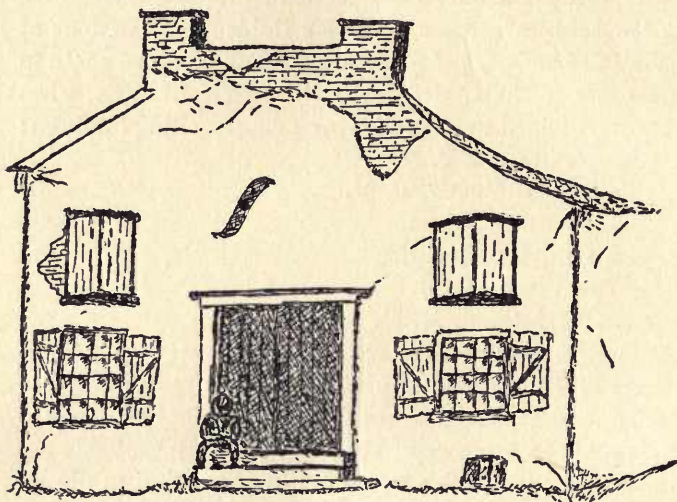
"Geo. E. Jackson, M. M.

"The Lodge was then consecrated and the officers installed by the Rt. Worshipful Grand Master in due form. An appropriate address was delivered by Brother Richard M. Young, in presence of the Lodge and a respectable audience of citizens, after which the Lodge walked in procession to Brother Frederick Holden's and partook of a dinner and other refreshments, and then returned in like order to the Lodge Room. The Lodge was then closed in due order and harmony at 4 p. m.

Shadrach Bond

"JESSE W. COOPER,
"Secretary."

W. M.



SKETCH OF FIRST STATE HOUSE OF ILLINOIS, 1882,
AND MEETING PLACE OF WESTERN STAR LODGE, No. 107.

It will be observed that we are told in these records, as in the minutes of all the old Lodges, that it was a custom of the Craft in those days to divide the hours of labor by partaking of refreshments frequently, and a dinner occasionally. Such is the present custom of Lodges in Europe. And to such must our Lodges return if they would retain the interest of their membership. Too much work and too little recreation becomes monotonous, and to the want of the social feature in our modern Lodge is owing the loss of interest in the meetings on the part of our older members. It was the custom at the dinner or refreshment table to offer an occasional sentiment, such as the health of the Grand Master, "The Army and Navy," and local sentiments, or sing a song, which custom of our fathers it were well to revive, and thus reduce the hours fretted away in listening to the same voices telling the same ches— nutty stories of adulation of some local member.

The song was usually selected by the brother called upon to sing; hence a pleasing variety of the popular ditties of the day, with here and there a sentimental or Masonic song. "Burns' Farewell" and "Auld Lang Syne" were appreciated, and for a local song "Illinois" was always popular. A copy of this song was given the writer many years ago by one who had often assisted in singing this favorite. The first four verses and chorus comprise the original song, the fifth having been added a decade later, but so long and often had the old brother sang it that he had come to believe it older than the original.

To a proper understanding of the reason for this popularity, we must call the reader's attention to the fact that the north and northwestern part of the State was

but little known in the '20s. In 1823 attention was called to the abundance of lead mineral near and about Fevre River, where the city of Galena is located, and the tide of emigration set strongly in that direction. Many of the farmers of Central and Southern Illinois, also of Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, were accustomed to going up to the Fevre River country in the fall to mine or haul mineral with their ox teams and returning home in the spring to put in their crops. In this way the beauties of the Rock River valley and the lands of Northern Illinois became generally known and taking form in song with the popular air of "Benny Havens O!" or "The Wearing of the Green," it was carried down through the state by the returning farmers from the mines.

As early as 1821, we find in the records of Olive Branch Lodge, No. 5, Missouri constitutions, located "in the town of Allton" (Alton), and other lodges thereabouts, including St. Louis, Mo., the names of Captain Hezekiah H. Gear, Rev. Charles Gear, Dr. A. T. Crow, Thomas H. January, Dr. Horatio Newhall, Abner Field, Brothers Turney, Snow, Langworthy and others whom we find at Galena in 1826-7. Rev. Charles Gear being the W. M. of the new Lodge, "Strangers Union, No. 14, at Fevre River." To these brethren and the thousands going and returning from Fevre River every fall and spring during the '20s and late into the '40s, we are indebted for the fame of the lead mines and beauties of the lands of which they so sweetly sang.

We here reproduce the original, which we have no knowledge of ever having been printed before, except in a little booklet by our publishers and with our consent.

ILLINOIS.

1. Away down on Rock River, such lands were never known,
If Adam had but passed that way, the scenes he'd called his own;
He'd said it was a garden he played in when a boy,
And straightway called it Eden, in the State of
Illinois.

CHORUS—

Then move your family West if good health you would enjoy,
And you'll rise to wealth and honor in the State of Illinois.
Oh, for God's sake move out West, take all your girls and boys,
And we'll cross at Dixon's Ferry, near Peoria,
Illinois.

2. 'Twas there the Queen of Sheba came to Solomon of old,
Her baskets full of peppermint, frankincense and fine gold,
And she became so enamored with all the girls and boys,
That she proclaimed herself to be the Queen of
Illinois.

CHORUS—

3. She's bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, Wabash and the
Lakes,
She has crawfish in her swampy lands and her echoes wake the
snakes;
The rivers they are crooked, her steamboats make a noise,
Oh, what a pleasant place it is to live in
Illinois.

CHORUS—

4. The fishes in the river, her cattle and her mules
Are blooded and imported stock, likewise her common schools;
But these are small diversions when taken with the joys
Ex-pe-ri-enced by living in the State of
Illinois.

CHORUS—

5. A little further on Chicago you will find,
A nice commercial city built up in modern times;
Her girls they are so pretty, her boys they are so gay
They'll take the rag right off the bush of
Mich-i-gan-i-a.

CHORUS—

Then move your family West if good health you would enjoy,
And you'll rise to wealth and honor in the State of Illinois.
Oh, for God's sake move out West, take all your girls and boys,
And we'll cross at Dixon's Ferry, near Peoria,
Illinois.

At a meeting of Western Star Lodge, No. 1, Saturday, July 5th, A. D. 1828, A. L. 5828.

Present.

Wm. C. Greenup, W. M., P. T.

Th. I. V. Owen, S. W., P. T. and Tyler P. T.

Sam'l Walker, J. W., P. T.

Jesse W. Cooper, Secretary.

Jacob Freeman, Treasurer, P. T. and Visitor.

"The Lodge was solemnly opened in the first step in ample form.

"On motion seconded.

"*Resolved*, That the bye-laws as amended and lastly sanctioned of Western Star Lodge, No. 107, so far as the same can be applicable and not inconsistent with the regulations of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, be adopted and observed as the bye-laws of this Lodge until changed or a new set of bye-laws be made and approved.

"*Resolved*, That Thomas I. V. Owen, Thomas Reynolds and William C. Greenup be appointed a committee to draft a set of bye-laws for the government of this Lodge, and that they report the same in writing to this Lodge at a meeting to be held at the Lodge room on the first Saturday in August next at 6 o'clock p. m. for consideration.

"*Ordered*, That Brother Jesse W. Cooper be allowed fourteen dollars sixty-two and a half cents for sundry articles furnished for the use of the Lodge as per account on file.

"The Lodge was then closed in due order and harmony at 9 o'clock p. m.

"JESSE W. COOPER, Secretary.

"At a stated meeting of the Western Star Lodge, No. 1, held at Kaskaskia on Saturday, Sept. 6th A. D. 1828, A. L. 5828.

"Present.

"S. Bond, W. M.

"Wm. C. Greenup, S. W.

"Thomas I. V. Owen, J. W.

"Jesse W. Cooper, Secretary.

"Samuel Walker, Treasurer and J. D., P. T.

"John Atkins, S. D., P. T. and Visitor.

"C. C. Conway, Tyler.

"The Lodge was solemnly opened in due order and harmony. No business appearing in this step, a Fellow Crafts Lodge was opened. No business in this step, a Master Mason's Lodge opened.

"Brothers William C. Greenup and Thomas I. V. Owen, two of the committee appointed to draft the bye-laws for the government of this Lodge, made the following report:

Bye-Laws

"For the government of the Western Star Lodge, No. 1, held at Kaskaskia, State of Illinois, under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois. Adopted.

"Whereas, It is essential to the beauty, harmony and strength of our ancient society that the laws and regulations for the government of every individual Lodge be established agreeable to the first principles, and also that those first principles be declared in the regulations, as well to keep them in perpetual remembrance by the members of the Lodge, as to give information to all who may be desirous to join themselves in the bond of Masonry.

"Be it therefore known, That to become a brother of our Ancient Craft, a belief in the eternal *God* as the great

architect of the universe is the first great essential. A Mason is to observe the moral law, and in no case to act against the great inward light of his own conscience. He must avoid the errors of bigotry and superstition, making use of his own reason according to that liberty wherewith he is made *Free*.

“He must allow liberty of conscience to all men, having charity and brotherly love for all. He must be a good citizen of the State in which he lives, as his obligations thereto will be greatly inforced by his duty as a Mason. He is to be a lover of quiet and be obedient to the civil powers, so far as they infringe not his limited bounds of reason.

“Treason he must not be concerned in nor privy to plots against the State, but consider the welfare of his own country the peculiar care of a Mason. He must be industrious and not eat any man’s bread for naught. He must endeavor to abstain from all malice and slander, and cheerfully obey those set over him on account of their superior qualifications, however they may be inwardly ranked.

“For as free and accepted Masons, prominence of virtue and knowledge he is to consider as the only standard of true nobility. He must know himself capable of keeping secrets as it be conferred upon him by the strongest obligations.

“He must be free born, of the age of twenty-one years, of good report, of sufficient natural endowments and the sense of a man, with an estate, office, trade or occupation, or some known way of acquiring an honest livelihood. He must be upright in his body, not deformed or dismembered, but hale and entire limbs as a man ought to be.

“And for the more immediate well ordering and con-

ducting this Lodge, it is hereby ordained by the Master, Wardens and brethren thereof at this communication.

"SECTION 1. That the stated meetings of the Lodge be on the first Saturday of every month, and that the hours of meeting shall be from seven o'clock in the evening until ten, between the twenty-fifth day of March and the twenty-fifth day of September, and from six o'clock in the evening until nine, between the twenty-fifth day of September and twenty-fifth day of March.

"SEC. 2. The Master, Senior and Junior Wardens and Treasurer respectively shall be chosen by ballot on the stated Lodge night next before St. John the Evangelist's Day. The brethren shall first ballot for the Worshipful Master, whose election shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present, and immediately after the election of the Worshipful Master the Senior Warden shall be elected, and immediately after the Senior Warden the Junior Warden shall be elected, and immediately after the Junior Warden the Treasurer shall be elected, the same proceedings to be had as in the election of the Worshipful Master.

"SEC. 3. The new elected Master shall have power, with the consent of the Lodge (to appoint), two brethren properly qualified to be Deacons, and may also in like manner appoint the Secretary and Stewards, any of whom refusing to serve shall forfeit and pay one dollar, excepting the brother so refusing to serve has acted in the like station before, and the Master shall then make a new appointment.

"SEC. 4. The duty of the Treasurer shall be to receive the balances of moneys from the late Treasurer which he may have in his hands, together with all books, bonds and

other papers appertaining to his office. He shall keep fair and regular account of all moneys by him received for the use of the Lodge and of all expenditures which he shall be directed to make, which accounts shall be laid upon the table every stated meeting for the inspection of the brethren present. He shall keep an account of the Lodge dues of every brother, and shall use his endeavors to collect the same, and make report at the meeting preceding every St. John's Day of the sums due to the Lodge of each brother. He shall keep the accounts of this Lodge with the Grand Lodge. He shall not pay without the orders of the Lodge communicated by him by a certificate for the Secretary or the Master's warrant, and in the body of which shall be expressed the use or uses for (which) the same is given. He shall at any time when requested pay over all the moneys or other property of the Lodge to his successor in office, or to such person or persons as the Lodge may appoint.

"He shall always keep the moneys and the books and papers of his office in the Lodge chest, unless otherwise specially directed by the Lodge.

"SEC. 5. The duty of the Secretary shall be to keep fair minutes of the proceedings of the Lodge. He shall issue summons for each stated or other meetings which the Master may direct. He shall keep an exact account of all the moneys paid to the Treasurer during Lodge hours. He shall make a record of all laws, rules and ordinances made in the Lodge, and keep a register of all the Lodges held under the warrant of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, with their times and places of meeting, and shall do all such other services appertaining to his office as the Lodge shall direct.

"SEC. 6. As soon as the Master takes his chair the brethren shall take their respective places, and (on) proper notice shall observe a profound silence. There shall be no whispering or private conferences between the brethren, nor shall any leave his work or move from his place, excepting such as may be required in their duty.

"SEC. 7. When any motion is made or matter proposed to the Lodge, the brother moving or proposing such matter shall stand up and address the Master with true obeisance, and when done he shall sit down, and if he is seconded in his motion, the Master shall state the question, which shall be determined by a show of hands. But, on putting any question, if three of the brethren desire, it shall be determined by ballot, and if the Lodge should be equally divided on any question, then the Master shall have a casting vote, except in cases of ballot when the question shall be lost, and if any question being so lost by equal ballot or determined for or against (it) shall not be put (again) the same meeting.

"SEC. 8. Before the putting of any question, if any brother shall call for the previous question, the same shall be immediately put by the Master, or if any brother move the postponement, deferring or referring the question before the Lodge, and is seconded and thirded, the original question shall not be put until the last is determined pro. or con.

"SEC. 9. No brother shall speak more than twice to the same subject without leave, unless to explain himself, and whilst speaking he shall confine himself to the business before the Lodge. Nor shall any brother propose any new matter or question until that before the Lodge is determined.

"SEC. 10. No brother shall rise to speak or interrupt another addressing the Master, unless to call to order, and if any shall mock, deride or endeavor to ridicule any brother while speaking or while the Lodge is sitting, he shall, on conviction by a majority of the members, forfeit and pay, for the first offense, five dollars, and ask pardon of the Lodge and of the offended brother. For the second offense, he shall forfeit and pay ten dollars, and ask pardon of the Lodge and the offended brother. For the third offense, he shall forfeit and pay fifteen dollars and ask pardon of the Lodge and offended brother, and for the fourth offense he shall be expelled, and not be readmitted without the unanimous consent of the Lodge to be given by ballot, or otherwise as the Lodge shall determine, and shall pay twenty dollars.

"SEC. 11. The Master shall judge of all questions of order, except when three of the brothers object thereto, when the determination shall be made as in cases of other questions.

"SEC. 12. If any brother shall curse or swear, or shall cause any angry dispute in the Lodge room, on conviction by a majority of the members present, he shall forfeit, for the first offense, five dollars, for the second offense, ten dollars, and for the third offense, fifteen dollars, and for the fourth offense shall (not) be readmitted without the unanimous consent of the Lodge to be taken by ballot, or otherwise as the Lodge shall determine, and also pay twenty dollars.

"SEC. 13. That no brother shall improperly harass by suit or suits at law any other brother of this or any other Lodge, but shall at all times, whenever a dispute exists, give a fair and reasonable opportunity of settling the same in an amicable manner.

"SEC. 14. Any member who shall discover or make known anything mentioned in the Lodge which shall be ordered to be kept a secret shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifteen dollars, or be expelled from the Lodge, as a majority of the brethren adjudge, and if expelled shall not be readmitted. All observations relative to the admission or rejection of applicants shall be considered as such secrets, and shall not be mentioned to any person not a Mason and when communicated to a Mason of any other Lodge it shall be given under the injunction of secrecy.

"SEC. 15. There shall be a brother employed as a Tyler, who shall receive fifty cents for every stated Lodge he shall attend, and fifty cents for every Lodge of emergency. It shall be the duty of the Tyler to guard the door of the Lodge while at work, and serve all notices in writing on any Mason given by the Secretary by order of the Master, and when it shall so happen that the said Tyler does not attend, the Master (may appoint) any other brother present to tyle the Lodge, who shall do the duty of the Tyler, under the penalty of five dollars, unless sufficient reason be assigned, until the Tyler shall attend.

"SEC. 16. All fines and forfeitures collected from any of the brethren shall be part of the funds of the Lodge and appropriated for its use.

"SEC. 17. Every member of this Lodge shall pay or cause to be paid annually into the treasury of this Lodge, on or before the stated meeting preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day, one dollar, or such other sum as may be required by the regulations of the Grand Lodge, to be sent to the Grand Lodge if required, if not required by the Grand Lodge, then the money to be appropriated as a part of the funds of this Lodge; provided, however, that all

fractions of a year shall be at the rate of one dollar a year, or according to the rates fixed by the Grand Lodge. Every member of this Lodge shall pay or cause to be paid into the treasury of this Lodge at the rate of two dollars a year, one of which is to be paid on or before the stated meeting preceding each St. John's Day, which shall constitute all the expenses chargeable to him as a member in support of this Lodge. And if any member of this Lodge shall neglect to pay his said dues at the time aforesaid, yearly or half yearly, and does not appear in the Lodge personally, or send by some brother the said dues, on or before the next St. John's Day following the time when said dues should have been paid, he shall be suspended; provided, the two-thirds of the members present concur, and shall not be again admitted until his former arrearages are paid, with the addition of two dollars. Provided, that if any brother should be going abroad or is willing to retire from the Lodge, and such retiring brother shall reside nine miles or more from the Lodge, he shall, upon paying up his Lodge dues, obtain a certificate thereof, and shall be considered as exonerated from all dues except Grand Lodge dues while abroad or choosing to be so retired. Should he, however, attend at any meeting, he shall pay twenty-five cents; provided also, that the delinquent member have notice thereof from the Secretary or Treasurer, and shall refuse or neglect to make payment on or before the third stated Lodge night after service of said notice, he shall be suspended; provided also, that any member so retiring or going abroad may with the consent of the Lodge, on paying all dues and one dollar to the Secretary, obtain a diploma or a certificate under the seal of the Lodge, or in case of the Lodge not being provided with a seal the

private seal of the Master to be affixed, and said certificate to be signed by the Master and Wardens, and countersigned by the Secretary.

"SEC. 18. Every visiting brother, provided he has before visited the Lodge, shall, before retiring from the Lodge room, pay twenty-five cents to the Treasurer of the Lodge towards defraying the necessary expenses, and every member of this Lodge, who shall absent himself on regular stated meetings or special meetings when duly notified, shall pay twenty-five cents to the Treasurer for every meeting he shall so absent himself at the next stated meeting after being notified by the Secretary, unless he give to the Master a satisfactory reason in writing for his absence.

"SEC. 19. Any person calling himself a Mason and wishing to visit the Lodge, shall, before he is permitted so to do, be examined by two Master Masons, members of this Lodge, and upon their reporting that he is a true Mason, he shall be admitted, or a visitor may be admitted on two Master Masons (one being a member of this Lodge) declaring in open Lodge that they know him to be a true Mason, and also declaring his degree and the number of the Lodge of which he is a member or was last a member (which), shall be noted on the minutes of this Lodge at that time.

"SEC. 20. An ancient Mason, not initiated in this Lodge and praying to become a member thereof, shall be examined by two Master Masons of this Lodge, who shall show him the bye-laws. He shall be balloted for as in case of a candidate for initiation, and upon examining the ballots if there be one or more dissenting vote, the person so applying shall be rejected, and shall have information thereof. But when the ballot is unanimous he shall be

admitted, if a Master Mason on the payment of two dollars, if a Fellow Craft on the payment of five dollars, if an Entered Apprentice on the payment of ten dollars.

"SEC. 21. Any person wishing to be initiated into the mysteries of Free Masonry in this Lodge must first be recommended by two brothers of the degree of Master Masons. He must petition the Lodge, which petition must be signed by the recommending brethren, and shall set forth that he has seen and approves of the bye-laws. The Master shall appoint a committee of three Master Masons at least, members of this Lodge (from which committee the two recommending brethren shall be excluded) to enquire if the petitioner is of such circumstances, character and of mature age, as by the fundamental principles of the Craft can be initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, which committee shall report the result of their enquiry in writing on the following stated meeting, and if such report is unfavorable to the petitioner, he shall not be admitted, and notice thereof shall be given him by a recommending brother. But if the report be favorable to the petitioner, he shall be balloted for and the same proceeding had as set forth in the 20th Section in case of balloting, and if he is unanimously approved he shall be admitted on paying five dollars for the first and five dollars for each subsequent step, one dollar to the Secretary, one dollar to the Tyler for the initiation, and one dollar or such other sum as may be required by the Grand Lodge, for which the initiate shall produce a receipt from the Secretary before he retire from the Lodge. Provided, however, that no petition shall be renewed unless there shall be five dollars deposited with the Secretary at the time of presenting the petition. And in case the applicant shall not be admitted,

the deposit aforesaid shall be returned to him; but in case he shall be admitted the said deposit shall be considered as forming a part of the aforesaid initiating charges.

"SEC. 22. No moneys shall ever be taken from the treasury of this Lodge unless allowed by the Lodge in stated meetings, or on the warrant of the Master and Wardens for charitable purposes.

"SEC. 23. Whenever the funds of this Lodge shall exceed one hundred dollars it may, on application to the Lodge, be lawful to be lent out on interest to some brother of this Lodge for not more than six months, which person shall give two securities to be approved by the Master and Wardens; provided, always, that if no member of this Lodge will take the loan on those conditions, the money may be lent to a member of any other Lodge, but if no brother Mason will accept the loan on those terms, then the money may be lent to any good and sufficient person who will give bond, with two securities to be approved by the Master and Wardens, and the bond shall be taken in the name of the Treasurer for the time being, who shall, on his dismission from office, assign and set over the same to his successor or to such other person as the Lodge shall direct.

"SEC. 24. When any motion is made for altering, amending or repealing any of the bye-laws of this Lodge, or for making any new laws, the same shall be presented to the Master in writing and if the motion is seconded, it shall be read by the Secretary, who shall enter it on the minutes, but the question shall not be put until the next stated meeting after such motion shall be made; then it shall be necessary for two-thirds of the members present to agree to the proposed alteration, amendment, repeal or

such proposed new law, without which agreement the motion shall be rejected and the Secretary shall, at the opening of the Lodge before the question is taken, read the said motion. Whereupon the ballot or vote shall be taken the questioned determined, and if in the affirmative, the amendment shall be incorporated in the bye-laws.

“SEC. 25. Every member of this Lodge shall, as soon as the code of laws has been approved and recorded in the Secretary’s book, or abstract at the passage thereof so soon as he shall return to the Lodge, subscribe his name to the same, reserving to every member of this Lodge the right to move for an amendment or repeal of the whole or any part of these laws under the foregoing regulations.

“SEC. 26. All motions to expel a member shall be made at a stated meeting and grounded on written charges, which shall be then laid before the Lodge, a copy of which charges certified shall be delivered (if within reach of the Lodge) at least one month before the question shall be taken by the Lodge thereon. And the party so charged shall at the same time be notified to make his defense in writing, if within the reach of the Lodge, accompanied with such proofs as he may think necessary to his defense. Provided, however, that the testimony of any person not a member of this Lodge shall be taken before a judge or magistrate in presence of at least two disinterested Masons agreed upon or nominated by the parties, giving to the opposite party reasonable notice (if within the reach of the Lodge) of the time and place of taking such testimony. Provided, also, if a member to be not in the reach of this Lodge (by report of the Secretary in conformity of the above rules) the proceedings shall be had against him as though he were within the jurisdiction of the Lodge.

“Which was read and unanimously adopted.

"On the application of Brother C. C. Conway, leave is given him to demit from this Lodge upon the payment of his dues to The Old Western Star Lodge, No. 107.

"The Lodge closed in due order and harmony.

"JESSE W. COOPER, Secretary."

We give this code of bye-laws in full and from the original record, as, in fact, are all these minutes of "The Western Star Lodge, No. 107," from its taking charter under the Grand Lodge of Illinois and its installation as "Western Star Lodge, No. 1," of the State of Illinois.

We do so because they are so unique in their composition, combining as they do, constitution, bye-laws, rules of order and trial procedure. They contain much of interest to the student of our Lodge doings in the long ago and a good deal more of the genuine old-fashioned Freemasonry than found in many of our modern codes.

Note Section 1 of the bye-laws, and think if it would not be well did we have such a law in our present Lodges—setting the hour of *closing* as well as that of the *opening*. It would gladden the heart of many a good wife and mother to know that father or son would have no further excuse for late hours, saying they had been to Lodge and were detained until the "wee sma hours ayant the twal."

Lodge sometimes met in the chapel by the old church, a sketch of which we give, showing the ruins of those noted buildings in our old State Capital of Kaskaskia.

We follow now with the minutes of the few meetings held by this Lodge under its new charter. Freemasonry was at a low ebb in Illinois at this time, and the reading of these records reminds one of the dying embers of a once bright and cheerful fire soon to be entirely extinguished.

The first record following the adoption of these bye-laws



SKETCH OF OLD CHURCH AND CHAPEL, KASKASKIA, 1882.

gives evidence of the good old Masonic custom prevailing before the date of written constitutions when "Three Master Masons" could meet and open Lodge.

At a stated meeting Western Lodge, No. 1, Kaskaskia, Oct. 4th, A. D. 1828, A. L. 5828.

Present—

William C. Greenup, W. M., P. T.

Saml. Walker, S. W., P. T. and Treasurer.

Jesse W. Cooper, J. W., P. T. and Tyler, P. T. and Secretary.

"The Lodge was opened in the third or Masters step of Masonry in ample form. A petition and five dollars was received from Jacob Sternanman, an applicant, to become a member of this Lodge. The Worshipful appointed Brothers Bond, Owen and Walker a committee to report next stated meeting.

"*Ordered*, That every brother member of this Lodge not now present be notified in writing by the Secretary to appear in the Lodge at the next stated meeting.

"The Lodge closed in due order and harmony at 9 o'clock.

"JESSE W. COOPER, Secretary.

"At a stated meeting Western Star Lodge, No. (1) Kaskaskia, Saturday, November 1st, A. D. 1828, A. L. 5828.

"Present—

"S. Bond, W. M.

"W. C. Greenup, S. W.

"Tho. I. V. Owen, J. W.

"J. W. Cooper, Secretary.

"S. Walker, Treasurer, S. D., P. T. and J. D., P. T. and Tyler, P. T.

"The Lodge was opened in the first step of Masonry. The committee appointed at the last stated meeting to enquire into the character of Jacob Sternanman requested further time. Agreed to, and to report at the next stated meeting.

"No further business the Lodge closed in due order and harmony, etc.

"J. W. COOPER, Secretary.

"At a stated meeting Western Star Lodge No. (1) Kaskaskia, Saturday, December 6th, A. D. 1828, A. L. 5828.

"Present —

"Wm. C. Greenup, W. M., P. T.

"David Anderson, J. W., P. T. and J. D., P. T.,

"S. Walker, S. W., P. T. and Treasurer.

"J. W. COOPER, S. D., P. T. and T., P. T.

"The Lodge was opened in the first step of Masonry, and no business being before the Lodge, it adjourned until Saturday, the 20th of November, at 6 o'clock p. m.

"The Lodge closed in due order and harmony at 8 o'clock p. m.

"J. W. COOPER, Secretary.

"Saturday, December 20th, A. D. 1828, A. L. 5828.

"The Lodge met agreeable to adjournment.

"Present—

"William C. Greenup, W. M., P. T.

"Samuel Walker, S. W., P. T. and Treasurer and Tyler, P. T.

"J. W. Cooper, J. W., P. T. and Secretary.

"The Lodge was opened agreeable to adjournment. The following resolution was offered by Brother Wm. C. Greenup, which was adopted, and to be acted upon the 27th inst. to wit:

"Whereas, The Grand Lodge of Illinois has not convened in the years A. D. 1827 and 1828, A. L. 5827 and 5828. And that the Western Star Lodge No. (1), held at Kaskaskia, under a warrant from said Grand Lodge, was duly installed on the 24th day of June last, and no intelligence having reached the Western Star Lodge that any report of that installation has been made according to usual custom, and approved or disapproved by said Grand Lodge, and therefore

"*Resolved*, By the Western Star Lodge No. (1), in this their adjourned stated meeting, until a report of their installation and approbation of the same shall be communicated to them by the Grand Lodge aforesaid, that all meetings of the same after the 27th inst. be and the same are hereby postponed.

"The Lodge was closed in due order and harmony at 8 p. m.

"J. W. COOPER, Secretary.

"At a stated meeting Western Star Lodge No. (1) Saturday, December 27th, A. D. 1828, A. L. 5828.

"Present—

"S. Bond, W. M.

"W. C. Greenup, S. W.

"Tho. I. V. Owens, J. W.

"Saml. Walker, Treasurer.

"J. W. Cooper, Secretary.

"John Atkins, Visitor, S. D., P. T.

"Jacob Freeman, Visitor, J. D., P. T.

"Amos Anderson, Tyler.

"The Lodge opened in the first degree of Masonry, and no business in that degree, the Lodge opened in the second degree, and no business in that degree, the Lodge opened a Master Mason's Lodge.

"On motion of Brother Owen, that the Treasurer call on Brothers Greenup, Conway and Owens to pay over the amount of money due in their hands to this Lodge, and that he make report to this Lodge at the next stated meeting, and all other unfinished business be postponed until the next stated meeting.

"No further business before the Lodge, it closed in due order and harmony at 9 p. m.

"J. W. COOPER, Secretary.

"At a stated meeting Western Star Lodge No. (1) Saturday, January 3d, A. D. 1825 (9), A. L. 5829.

"Present—

"Wm. C. Greenup, W. M., P. T.

"Tho. I. V. Owens, S. W., P. T.

"John Atkins, J. W., P. T. and Visitor.

"Saml. Walker, Treasurer and S. D., P. T.

"Ferdinand Onger, Tyler and J. D., P. T. and Visitor.

"Jesse W. Cooper, Secretary.

"The Lodge was opened in the Master Mason's degree in ample form.

"On motion of Brother Walker, *Ordered*, That Brother Thomas Reynolds pay over to Brother J. W. Cooper, nine dollars, assumed by him to be paid on account for John Robinson for Western Star Lodge, No. 107.

"On motion of Brother Walker, that all unfinished business lay over until the next regular Lodge night. Then the Lodge closed in due order, harmony and peace, at 9 p. m.

"J. W. COOPER, Secretary.

"At a stated meeting Western Star Lodge No. (1) Saturday, February 7th, A. D. 1829, A. L. 5829.

"Present—

"Wm. C. Greenup, W. M., P. T.

"Tho. I. V. Owens, S. W., P. T.

"John Atkins, J. W., P. T.

"C. C. Conway, J. D., P. T. and Tyler.

"J. W. Cooper, Secretary.

"The Lodge was opened in the Master Mason's degree in ample form.

"The following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the resolution proposed for adoption at an adjourned meeting of this Lodge, on the 20th of December last, be now adopted to take effect from and after this meeting.

"The Lodge was then closed in due order and harmony, at 7 p. m.

J. W. COOPER, Secretary."



CONCLUSION.

The adoption Saturday, February 7, A. D. 1829, of the resolution submitted December 20, A. D. 1828, by Brother William C. Greenup, at the stated communication of Western Star Lodge No. (1), closed the doors of that lodge and, so far as we now have record, of all the Lodges in Illinois but one, and that one was the Strangers Union Lodge No. 14, on Fever river (Galena), which continued work until June 11, A. D. 1829, when the charter was ordered returned "to the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois," and that application be made "to the Grand Lodge of Missouri for a new one."

The following is the resolution:

"Resolved, By the Western Star Lodge No. (1), in this their adjourned stated meeting, until a report of their installation and approbation of the same shall be communicated to them by the Grand Lodge aforesaid, that all meetings of the same after the 27th inst. be and the same are hereby postponed."

The closing of these two Lodges, the last to go down under the bitter Anti-Masonic persecution of that day, and the records in which we find the last reference known of that early Grand Lodge, leaves the writer as if at the grave of Masonry and with no other duty to perform than that of depositing in its memory the sprig of acacia, our sacred emblem of victory and immortality. But as the acacia is a symbol of our triumph over death, so is it the Freemasons' emblem of the spirit's immortality.

There was a period of Masonic darkness in Illinois fol-

lowing the closing of Western Star and Strangers Union Lodges and the going down of the Grand Lodge, but it was like the restful period of winter to nature. Spring-time came. Freemasonry awakened and in her resplendent robes of brotherly love, charity and benevolence rekindled her altar fires and resumed work in her Lodges. To-day Freemasonry, with its history of the centuries, stands foremost in the world as the greatest of fraternities, and in Illinois, with its large membership, ranks second in numbers in the United States and third in the world.

As "The Western Star Lodge No. 107," located at Kaskaskia, Indiana Territory, was the Alpha of Freemasonry in this magnificent domain, it was reserved for "The Strangers Union Lodge No. 14," located on Fever river (Galena), to become the Omega, as we find by the records of that Lodge now in our keeping.

We have full minutes of the work of this Lodge from April 21, A. L. 5827, to and inclusive 11th June, A. L. 5829. The communications were regularly held and work was being done, which makes the action of this Lodge the more singular, and the more so when we know that a new Lodge under dispensation from Grand Lodge of Missouri was instituted in Galena as Galena Lodge U. D., July 17, 1830.

But as we are treating of that First Grand Lodge and its constituent Lodges, we close our history with the last record of a communication of Strangers Union Lodge No. 14, in which is the last known reference to that early Grand Lodge—

THE GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS OF ANCIENT FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS.

"GALENA, 11TH JUNE, A. L. 5829.

"Strangers Union Lodge No. 14 met pursuant to adjournment by By-Laws.

"Worshipful Moses Meeker, Master.

"Daniel Murphy, Senior Warden.

"J. R. Hartnett, Junior Warden.

"Rev. Charles Gear, Treasurer.

"James Craig, Secretary.

"T. B. Farnsworth, Senior Deacon.

"Peter Prim, Junior Deacon.

"James Harris, Tyler.

"Members, William Hempstead, Samuel Jamison, Benson Hunt.

"Visiting, J. R. Carter, late of Abraham Lodge No. 7, Louisville, Kentucky.

"1st. On motion, two-thirds of the members concurring, the annual election was dispensed with and the former officers continued the ensuing year.

"2. The further business before this Lodge is suspended, and the Lodge opened on the 3rd degree.

"3. On motion and seconded, we return our charter to the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois and apply to the Grand Lodge of Missouri for a new one, the further proceedings on which is postponed until Thursday, the 18th instant, at 4 p. m., when the Brethren are requested to give a general attendance.

"4th. The committee on the petition of J. B. Campbell for initiation made a favorable report, which is accepted, and the balloting dispensed with until next meeting.

"Adjourned in harmony.

"JAMES CRAIG,
"Secretary."

NAME AND LOCATION OF LODGES IN ILLINOIS, 1827.

Name.	No.	Instituted.	Location.	Grand Lodge Warrant.	No.
The Western Star..	1	1805	Kaskaskia	Pennsylv'nia	107
Lawrence	2	1815	Shawneetown ..	Kentucky ..	34
Libanus	3	1819	Edwardsville ..	Tennessee ..	29
Olive Branch.....	4	1821	Upper Alton...	Missouri ...	5
Vandalia	5	1822	Vandalia	Missouri ...	8
Union	6	1822	Jonesboro	Missouri ...	10
Eden	7	1822	Covington ...	Missouri ...	11
Hiram	8	1822	Brownsville....
Albion.....	9	1822	Albion	Indiana	9
Palestine	10	1824	Palestine	Illinois.....	10
Greene.....	11	1824	Carrollton	Illinois.....	11
Illion	12	1825	Carlyle	Illinois.....	12
Frontier	13	1825	Lewistown.....	Illinois.....	13
Strangers' Union ..	14	1826	Fever River* ..	Illinois.....	14
La Fayette.....	15	1826	Atlas, Pike Co..	Illinois.....	15
Cincinnati.....	16	1827	Shawneetown ..	Illinois.....	16

* Galena.

LODGES NOT IN AFFILIATION.

Temple	1820	Belleville.....	Tennessee ..	35
Sangamon	1822	Springfield ...	Missouri ...	9

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