

1826

1926

MANCHESTER LODGE No. 73

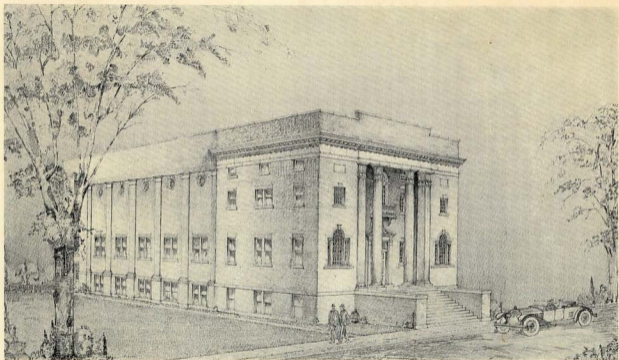
A. F. & A. M.

MANCHESTER, CONN.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
LAYING CORNER STONE
NEW MASONIC TEMPLE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2D

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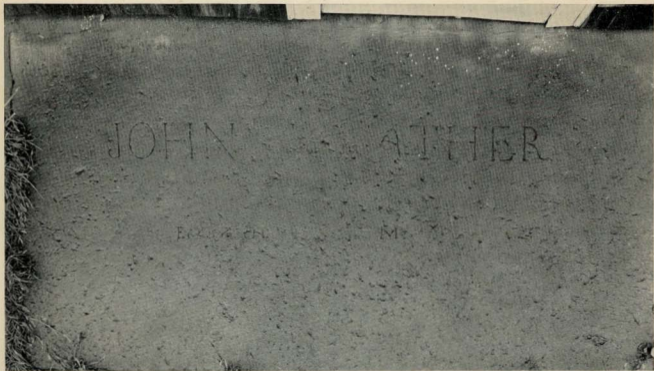
FOREWORD

One who traces through the records of Manchester Lodge, No. 73, A. F. & A. M., comes to feel that its story is that of a living, growing organism, throbbing with vitality and energy. Possibly only he who has read the whole story can grasp its vividness and its significance. At any rate, the writer feels that the facts he has chronicled, of necessity brief and fragmentary, must seem little better than dry bones without life or meaning.

However, the existence of a skeleton proves there has been life, and this outline of events may serve to stimulate the imagination of the Brethren who read it to fill in a picture of the life and development of our organization through the last hundred years.

Apparently little value was attached to records one hundred years ago. Our early records were roughly jotted down on separate sheets of paper of all sizes and description. One whole block of records covering the years 1846 to 1854 was altogether lost.

Certain facts concerning the early life of the lodge were gathered together in a note book by the late Past Master Charles H. Arnold. These notes helped the present historian materially and he wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness.



DOOR STONE AT HOME OF W. M. JOHN MATHER

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Brother ALFRED F. HOWES, *Historian*



EARLY DAYS

Orford Parish was set off from East Hartford and made the Town of Manchester by an Act of the Connecticut General Assembly in May 1823. Three years later, on May 10, 1826, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut granted a charter creating Manchester Lodge No. 73, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

The minutes recording the transaction read as follows: "A petition was received from brethren in Manchester praying for the establishment of a Lodge in that Town. A charter was granted, the limits to extend no further north in Vernon than a line running due east from the northeast corner of Manchester to the Coventry line."

The charter is still in existence. It is dated June 2, 1826 and bears the names William Cooley, John Mather, Josiah Loomis, William T. Smith, Howell M. Brown, John Hubbard and Mather C. Cadwell as petitioners. Many of the charter members of the new lodge had been members of Orient Lodge of East Hartford so that Orient Lodge No. 62 may be fairly called the parent of Manchester Lodge. The offspring proved healthy and lusty, an honor to its mother.

The first officers of the Lodge, designated in the charter, were Armin Bolles, W. M., John Mather, S. W., William T. Smith, J. W. The original record of their installation is worded as follows: "The Masonic Brethren which was to compose the Manchester Lodge No. 73 assembled at their hall on Tuesday the 15th of August 1826 where they were marshalled by Bro. John Hubbard who had been previously

appointed for that purpose and escorted by the Orient Lodge and a Band of Music to the Methodist Meeting House where there was an oration delivered by Bro. Isaac Perkins, after which they were installed by Bro. James M. Goodwin in due and ancient form.

After which they returned to the Lodge Room where it was voted that Bro. Armin Bolles, John Mather and Wells Woodbridge be a committee to wait on and present the thanks of the new Lodge to the Grand Lodge and compensate the orator and request a copy of the oration. No other business being before the Lodge it was closed in due and ancient form. Attest Erastus Vorra Sect."

The Lodge room referred to was the upper floor of a two-room brick schoolhouse built at Manchester Green by Captain Chauncey Bryant in 1816. It stood a little farther south than the present school on a spot now crossed by the highway.

The Methodist Meeting House mentioned stood a few rods east of the site of the Old Center Academy, not far from the location of our new temple. In fact, the new officers of Manchester Lodge for possibly hundreds of years to come will be installed on practically the same spot where its first officers were installed.

The only information obtainable regarding business transacted by the Lodge during the first year of its existence is found in its report made to the Grand Lodge at its annual meeting, May 1827. Two delegates from Manchester Lodge are here mentioned, Mather C. Cadwell and William T. Smith, and six initiations are reported. The names of the new members are Amos H. Boyd, Samuel Gould, Harry Olcott, Ralph Cheney, Halsey Spencer and Turner Adams.

An original secretary's record shows that on August 7, 1827, it was voted that the annual election of officers shall be held at the regular communication of the Lodge in August. The meeting immediately proceeded to ballot and the first officers chosen by the Lodge itself were the following: John

Mather W. M., George Carroll S. W., Josiah Lomis J. W., O. D. Boyd, Treasurer, John Hubbard, Secretary, W. Thompson S. D., Ralph Cheney J. D., Amos H. Boyd and Halsey Spencer, Stewards, Cyrus Goodale, Tyler.

The next annual report to the Grand Lodge, May 1829, records six initiated, one received by demit from Orient Lodge, one expelled for "unmasonic conduct." On July 22, 1828, Patrick Fitzgerald was made a mason and no more initiations occurred for sixteen years.

On August 10, 1829, the annual communication for the election of officers was held. The Officers elected were John Mather W. M., Joseph Noyes S. W., George Carroll J. W. No further elections were held for several years.

The anti-masonic storm caused by the Morgan episode in New York State had broken over Connecticut. Many Lodges, including Orient Lodge, were forced to surrender their charters and even the Grand Lodge meetings were thinly attended. In the years 1831, 1833, 1834 and 1835 Manchester Lodge neither sent delegates to the annual meetings of the Grand Lodge nor made returns.

At the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1832 a "Declaration of Free Masons" was presented and a vote was passed to send copies to every Lodge in the state with instructions to secure the signatures of as many Master Masons as possible. The signers in Manchester were John Mather, Ralph Cheney, Henry Marble, Chester Strickland, John L. White, Deodat Woodbridge, Dudley Woodbridge, William Cooley and John L. White, Jr.

It is plain that during the entire fifteen years 1829-1844 very few meetings of Manchester Lodge were held, and that barely enough members attended to hold a legal session. These scattered meetings were held, for the most part, at the home of W. M. John Mather still standing on Mather Street and it is clear that to the faith and courage of this remarkable man Manchester Lodge chiefly owes its ability to keep alive through the Morgan dark days.

That his services were appreciated by his brother Masons is attested by the following resolution passed on Sept. 10, 1845, at a regular communication held at the Mather home.

“Resolved, that the unfeigned thanks of Manchester Lodge be tendered to our worthy R. W. Past Master Mather for his care and attention in sustaining our charter through all the adversities to which our order has been subject by our enemies, also for his kindness in furnishing a room for our meetings.”

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

The first sign of returning life in the Manchester Lodge was the initiation of John C. Mather in the fall of 1844. His initiation was reported to the Grand Lodge in 1845. Three initiations were reported to the Grand Lodge in 1846, three in 1847, two in 1850, three in 1851, two in 1852, six in 1853 and four in 1854. Three were received by affiliation during this ten year period and two were lost by death, one by expulsion and one by withdrawal, leaving a net gain of 22 members.

Just how many members the Lodge had at any one time up to 1854 there are no records to show. We do not even know how many charter members there were. The charter bears the names of seven men as petitioners but there were other charter members. The name of Armin Bolles, the first Worshipful Master, is not upon the charter nor is that of Erastus Vorra, the Secretary who recorded the doings connected with the formation of the Lodge.

Some of the officers chosen at the first election of officers, August 7, 1827, were men whose names were not among the petitioners nor included in the list of initiations reported to the Grand Lodge in May 1827. Among the nine signers of the “Declaration of Free Masons” in 1832 are included four whose names had not appeared upon any of the Lodge records.

The earliest definite statement regarding the number of

members of Manchester Lodge appears in the report to the Grand Lodge in May, 1854, where the number is given as 38. The next year's report gives the total as 49, and from then on the growth was steady. The report of the Grand Lodge for 1876, the Lodge's fiftieth anniversary, shows a membership of 158. In 1901, the seventy-fifth anniversary of its organization, the number was 203. During the last ten years the growth in numbers has been very rapid. The present membership is 700.

Along with the growth in numbers has come financial prosperity. One who reads the records can not fail to be impressed by evidences of fidelity and skill in the handling of funds for meeting obligations or procuring improvements. No better illustration of wisdom in the business affairs of the Lodge could be cited than the handling of the project to acquire a title to the Center Academy property in 1905.

The title to this property was vested in a corporation, known as the "Manchester Center Academy Corporation." This had ceased to function thirty years before and it was necessary, therefore, to appeal to the General Assembly to re-create the corporation. This was done and the Assembly appointed Bros. John S. Cheney, Charles S. Cheney and William H. Coates a Reorganization Committee. The Trustees of the Lodge presented claims showing that they had been in possession of the property since September 5, 1887, had spent in improvements, insurance, etc. \$4,346.35 and owned more than one hundred shares of the stock of the former corporation.

A quit claim deed was finally obtained for the consideration of one dollar. Apparently much of the credit for the successful outcome of the project was due to the sagacity of the Chairman of the Committee, Brother John S. Cheney. In the minutes of the Lodge meeting held June 27, 1905, is recorded a vote of thanks to the Reorganization Committee, "especially Bros. John S. Cheney and George W. Ferris."

The sale of the lot in 1911 and the successful outcome, now assured, of the big proposition to build a Temple, illus-



RESIDENCE, REMODELED, OF
JOHN MATHER W. M. 1827 TO 1844
HOME OF MANCHESTER LODGE 1829 TO 1844



CENTER ACADEMY
HOME OF MANCHESTER LODGE
1855 TO 1875
1886 TO 1913

trate also the fact that the financial well being of Manchester Lodge has continually been in good hands.

HOMES OF THE LODGE

It has been stated already that the first home of the Lodge was the upper room of the brick school-house in the section of the town now known as Manchester Green and that during the dark days of the Morgan trouble the few communications that were held met for the most part at the house of W. M. John Mather. Apparently, when better times came, the Lodge went to the brick school again and continued there until about 1855. At this time the Lodge removed to the Center Academy and used the upper rooms for its meetings for twenty years. The lower rooms were used for school purposes.

In 1875 the Lodge removed to Spencer Hall "North Manchester." The vote to do so was a unanimous standing vote, passed on July 14, 1874.

At the last communication before removal, February 9, 1875, the following resolution was passed: "Whereas for the future welfare of the Lodge it has been deemed advisable to remove to another place of meeting and as we are about leaving the Old Hall occupied by us so many years and where most of the brethren first saw Masonic Light and where the present prosperity of the Lodge was achieved, therefore,

Resolved — "that it is with sad regret that we bid adieu to our present Hall and that we separate from it as an old and trusted friend and that the many interesting meetings held, and scenes passed with those now gathered home will ever fill a bright page in our memory and be cherished among our fondest recollections."

On Thursday evening, February 25, the new rooms in Spencer Hall were dedicated by officers of the Grand Lodge. The newspaper account of the event states that representatives were present from East Hartford, East Haddam, New

Britain, Meriden, New Haven and other towns and that "over three hundred were present including the ladies, in spite of the inclement weather." Worshipful G. M. W. W. Lee presided at the ceremony of dedication.

The old Center Academy property belonged to a corporation. Many of the Lodge brothers owned stock and the Lodge itself owned some. This stock was sold for \$330 and the proceeds used to help pay for furnishing the Spencer Hall rooms.

Apparently the old love was stronger than the new since agitation soon began to return to Center Academy. On April 26, 1881, it was voted to buy a "controlling interest in Center Academy." Through a committee, enough stock was purchased to control the property from William Hunniford for \$425. The records show that most of the purchase price was raised by subscription and that funds for making needed repairs were secured in the same way.

On December 22, 1885, it was voted "That on the expiration of our lease, which takes place January 1, 1886, we move to our property at the Center." The hall was not ready for occupancy as soon as expected and six communications, January 12, 1886, to March 23, 1886, were held at Cheney Hall. The dedication exercises were held on Wednesday, June 2, 1886, the sixtieth anniversary of the receiving of the charter. The M. W. Grand Master H. H. Green presided at the dedication exercises and many visitors from neighboring lodges were in attendance. At the close of the ceremony a banquet was served to about 200 guests in the lower hall.

In 1913 the old Center Academy was partly destroyed by fire and the Lodge removed its quarters to Odd Fellows Hall. The old building was moved to Birch Street and remodelled into a store.

It had become evident long before the loss of the Academy building that enlarged quarters must be provided for the Lodge on account of its rapidly growing membership.

In 1911 the corner lot of its property was sold to the

U. S. Government for \$12,000. The proceeds of annual Masonic Balls averaging about \$200 a year, together with savings from fees, dues and other sources of income had been set aside from time to time toward a building fund and the \$12,000 was added to this account. This fund grew until at the close of last year it amounted to \$32,252.68. Five years ago a definite drive was organized with Brother William S. Hyde at its head, to secure contributions from the Brethren to build a new temple.

At a communication held April 13, 1926, the Building Committee was authorized to erect a temple in accordance with the plans presented by the architect, Past Grand Master Walter T. Arnold. Today we have laid the corner stone of the structure that will become a splendid new Lodge Home. It will doubtless become the center of all masonic activities in Manchester and continue such until the passing years bring another centennial anniversary.

HONORABLE MENTION

The complete list to date of those who have served Manchester Lodge as Worshipful Master during the one hundred years of its existence is printed on another page. It numbers fifty-six (56) and of these twenty-six (26) are now living. It is an honorable list.

To appreciate what these brethren have done for our Lodge, one must read the records through. Before sitting in "The East" they have not only performed the duties incumbent upon holding the lower chairs and the subordinate offices of the Lodge, but have served on many committees and spent countless hours on details of many kinds of propositions to further Lodge interests. Most of them as Past Masters have continued to attend communications and to render their services with unabated zeal. They have instructed candidates, have headed important committees, have given lectures to initiates, and have helped conduct funeral rites for the dead. Better than performing any definite task, they have

furnished constant inspiration and guidance to the younger members of the fraternity.

Three of Manchester Past Masters have attained highest honors in the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Brother James McCormack was made a Mason in the old Center Academy in the fall of 1853, became Worshipful Master in 1855 and held the office for three years. He removed to Windsor and on May 15, 1866, was given a demit to serve as Worshipful Master in Washington Lodge by appointment of the Grand Lodge. Washington Lodge had lost its charter in 1838 and it was at this time restored. In 1881 Brother McCormack was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge and held the office for two years.

Brother Frank W. Havens, Master of No. 73 in 1883, 1884, and 1886 was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in 1898 and held the office for one year. Later, 1911 to 1913, he held the office of Grand Secretary.

Brother Fred A. Verplanck, honored and respected by all living Manchester Brethren as their most illustrious representative in Masonry during the present generation, was Master of No. 73 in 1899 and 1900 and was elected Grand Master in 1910.

Both Bros. Havens and Verplanck have held high office in connection with the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. During the entire thirty-seven years of its existence up to last February the Board of Managers of this organization had had but five presidents. Two of these were representatives of Manchester Lodge. Brother Havens served on the Board of Managers five years, 1907-1912 and was President two years, 1907-1908. Brother Verplanck has served continually upon the Board for fifteen years and is still a member. He was President of the Board for seven years 1919-1925, retiring last February. To all who know even casually the history of the Wallingford Masonic Home, it is apparent Brother Verplanck's services in connection with the "Foundation" have been very efficient and valuable.

Mention has been made of three representatives of Manchester Lodge who have served as members of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. In this connection should be mentioned also Brother Asa P. Fitch, who affiliated in Manchester Lodge April 11, 1876, coming from Warren Lodge, Coventry. In 1879 he held the office of Junior Warden and in 1880 that of Senior Warden. He removed to Hartford a little later and affiliated with Hartford Lodge No. 88. In 1905 he was elected Master of the Grand Lodge and held the office one year.

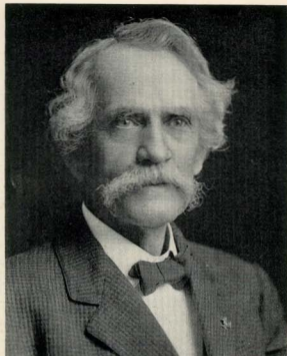
It is worth noting also that Rev. Bro. W. F. Taylor, for several years Chaplain of Manchester Lodge, held the office of Associate Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge in 1909. Rev. Bro. Joseph Cooper, the present Chaplain of Manchester Lodge is an Associate Grand Chaplain.

The records of the Lodge through the years show that many Brothers have rendered untiring services in its interest without attaining highest honors. Apparently they did not seek them.

Only two of the nine signers of the "Declaration of Free Masonry" in 1832 became Masters of the Lodge. It took courage in those days to champion Masonry and these Brothers deserve high honor for the stand they took.

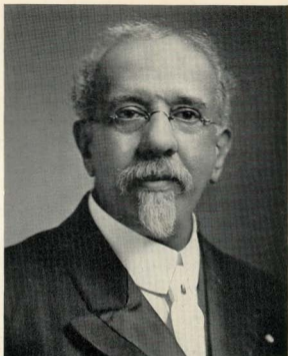
It was not until 1887 that the Secretary of the Lodge received pay. At that time his annual salary was made \$25. The records show that several Brethren performed the duties of the Secretary's office for considerable periods of years. Brother Judson W. Cobb was one of these and much of his service was rendered before the emolument of \$25 was available. Your historian has appreciated the work of Brother Cobb during his search of the records because his hand-writing was so plain and the minutes were always inserted upon the page so as to be easily read.

The services of Brother John S. Cheney in securing the title to the Center Academy property have already been mentioned. They deserve high praise.



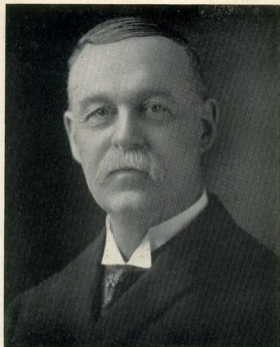
JAMES McCORMACK

Raised Manchester Lodge 1853
 Master Manchester Lodge 1855-1856
 Later member of Washington Lodge No. 70
 Grand Master 1881 and 1882



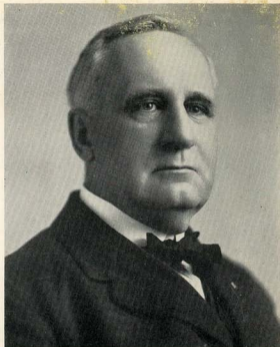
FRANK W. HAVENS

Raised Manchester Lodge 1881
 Master Manchester Lodge 1883-1884, 1886
 Grand Master 1898
 President of the Masonic Charity Foundation 1907-1908
 Grand Secretary 1909-1913



ASA P. FITCH

Affiliated Manchester Lodge 1876
Senior Warden Manchester Lodge 1880
Later member of Hartford Lodge No. 88
Grand Master 1905



FRED A. VERPLANCK

Raised Manchester Lodge 1894
Master Manchester Lodge 1899-1900
Grand Master 1910
President Masonic Charity Foundation 1919-1925

One other name must not be left out. It is that of the late Brother William H. Coates. He was raised in Manchester Lodge October 24, 1877. He was elected Treasurer on December 8, 1885, and served continuously until his death in September 1924, a period of 38 years.

If all the Brethren who have served Manchester Lodge with fidelity and efficiency without thought of honor or remuneration were to be mentioned the list would be far too long for the purposes of these chronicles.

ANNIVERSARIES AND SOCIAL LIFE

To present anything like an accurate record of the anniversary celebrations and social functions connected with the life of Manchester Lodge would require vastly more space than your historian has at his command.

No record of a twenty-fifth anniversary meeting or of a fiftieth anniversary celebration can be found. Probably there were none to record. On June 2, 1884, the fifty-eighth anniversary of the organization of the Lodge was celebrated by a special communication held in the afternoon at which the officers of the Grand Lodge were present. In the evening a sociable was held to which the craft with their ladies were invited. At a communication held June 7, resolutions were adopted thanking the ladies for their presence and Mr. H. C. Russell for his assistance in the affair. Thanks were also extended to the members of Co. G 1st Regiment C. N. G. "for their very thoughtful and considerate conduct."

Reference has already been made to the celebrations at the dedication of Spencer Hall on February 25, 1875, and of the new rooms in Center Academy on June 2, 1886.

On June 1, 1901, the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration was held in connection with Past Masters' night. Most Worshipful P. G. M. James McCormack was present.

One of the most noteworthy Past Masters' nights in all the history of the Lodge was that occurring April 26, 1910. On that occasion three Brothers who were raised in Man-



MASTER MASON'S DEGREE

ALL OFFICERS SERVICE MEN

NOVEMBER 4TH, 1919

chester Lodge and had attained the exalted position of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut occupied the chairs. M. W. Fred A. Verplanck, Grand Master, officiated as Worshipful Master, M. W. James McCormack as Senior Warden and M. W. Frank W. Stevens as Junior Warden.

The most unique communication ever held by Manchester Lodge occurred on November 4, 1919. It was called "Welcome Home Night." The Lodge room was beautifully draped with the national colors. All the chairs were occupied by Brothers in uniform returned from the war. All minor officers and workers of the craft were also in uniform. Even the Fellow Craft candidate, James Curran, was an ex-service man. The three high officers were Brother Albert T. Dewey, Worshipful Master, Brother Calvin C. Butler, Senior Warden, Brother Harry Maidment, Junior Warden.

Brother Leslie H. Rood acted as Secretary and closes his report with these words: "The banquet came to a close with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and I end the minutes of this meeting with the expression of every brother who was there that it was a grand and glorious occasion in Manchester Lodge No. 73."

Briefest mention only can be made of the trips of delegates from Manchester Lodge to attend gala occasions in other parts of the state.

On April 27, 1854, Manchester No. 73 was represented at a Special Meeting of the Grand Lodge held in Danbury to complete the Wooster Monument raised in memory of Major General David Wooster, the first Master of the first Lodge chartered in Connecticut.

On September 25, 1894, a delegation of Masons in full regalia attended the dedication of the new Masonic Home at Wallingford.

A large delegation attended the great celebration connected with the completion of the Hartford bridge.

In recent years delegations have exchanged visits with lodges in Hartford and other nearby towns to work degrees

or witness the working of degrees. All these enterprises have contributed to the gaining of Masonic information and the spread of good fellowship among the Lodges of the state.

THE CHARITIES OF THE LODGE

It is not for Manchester Lodge or any representative of the Lodge to boast of her charities. Probably she has been no more generous than her sister Lodges throughout the State. Her centennial history, however, would not be complete did it not mention enough facts to show that she has striven through all the years to display the spirit of charity and brotherly love, that all Masons and Lodges are pledged to exemplify.

As far back as November 2, 1846, when members were very few, a meeting voted that Brother A. E. Huntington "pay Brother John Wells \$4 from the funds of the Lodge, he being in destitute circumstances and a brother amongst us."

A vote is recorded in the early days to give a "donation visit." Committees were appointed for the different sections of the town including the "Cross-roads." They arranged to meet for the surprise party at "Brother Weaver's Hotel."

One old record dating back to 1829 gives a list of subscriptions to charity in which \$1.00 is the largest amount.

In October, 1871, a special communication was held to respond to a call for funds to aid the sufferers from the great fire in Chicago and from the forest fires in the Northwest. The Brethren voted \$100 from the Treasury and raised \$136 by subscription.

In 1913 a generous sum was sent to the sufferers from the floods in Ohio.

During the World War the Lodge subscribed liberally to the Red Cross fund.

The contributions of the Lodge to the Masonic Foundation have been always regular and liberal. In fact, the Manchester Brethren have never been allowed to forget the

needs of the Masonic Home because of the keen interest in its welfare on the part of Past Master Verplanck.

These items mentioned above are only a very few in the long list of gifts recorded in the minutes of the Lodge during the years past. No doubt the record might have been better, but as it stands it shows that the spirit of loving brotherhood has always been alive and active. To keep it alive and cause it to work out in a far better record of gifts and beneficences will be a worthy task for the Brethren who shall guide the activities of the Lodge through the coming years.

IN MEMORIAM

The first funeral conducted by the Lodge was that of Brother Harry Olcott in January 1828 and the minutes of the communication read as follows: "At a special Communication of Manchester Lodge No. 73 Holden at the school house in the West District Sunday the —— 1828 for the purpose of interring the body of Brother Harry Olcott. A Lodge of Master Masons was opened in due form. The Brethren then proceeded to house of the Deceased and escorted the body to the West Methodist Meeting House where an address was delivered by the Rev. Bro. S. V. Osborne. The Brethren then returned to the School House where the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

Attest W. T. Smith Sec't, P. T."

The school house mentioned stood not far from the present "Bunce" School but on the opposite side of the road. The remains of Brother Olcott still repose in the old West Cemetery.

Apparently it was not customary in the early days of the Lodge to pass resolutions upon the death of brethren.

The earliest resolutions found in the records bear no date but are paged opposite the minutes of regular communication dated May 12, 1866. They are entitled "Obituary" and concern the death of Bro. Buel Buckland George Rose. It reads in part "Resolved that we sincerely mourn the dis-

ruption of covenant friendship, having in remembrance his fidelity to Masonry and his devotion to the principles it inculcates." The committee drawing the resolutions consisted of Bros. Charles H. Lewis and James W. Cheney. No other resolutions appear until 1869 and these record two deaths, those of Bros. C. A. Spencer and W. M. Roberts.

In later years resolutions have been spread upon the records in connection with the death of every Brother as it occurs. These resolutions are perforce more or less formal but many of them convey a sense of personal affection and grief. Such are those relating to the death of P. M. Charles H. Arnold who died Thursday, October 26, 1893. The following is quoted from these resolutions.

"Resolved that in the death of Brother Past Master Chas. H. Arnold, Manchester Lodge, No. 73, A. F. & A. M., loses one of its oldest, most loyal and active members. For nearly thirty years he has labored with us and during that time has filled nearly every office in the Lodge. As Master for nearly five years, by his great zeal and devotion to the interests of the Lodge he was instrumental in bringing it to a high state of efficiency and prosperity. He was ever ready to stretch forth his hand to assist a brother Mason and by his life and good works proved his attachment to the noble principles of our great Fraternity."

Scarcely one of these resolutions fails to touch upon the belief in immortality, showing that life after death is a fundamental element of Masonic faith.

A few facts about the passing of the more prominent brothers of Manchester Lodge may be of interest.

Worshipful Master John Mather removed from Manchester about 1854 and went to Auburn, N. Y. to live with a married daughter. He died November 12, 1858, and his body was buried in Auburn. In all probability very few members of Manchester Lodge ever saw his grave.

One Master of the Lodge died in office, Brother Charles P. Montgomery, on March 28, 1905.

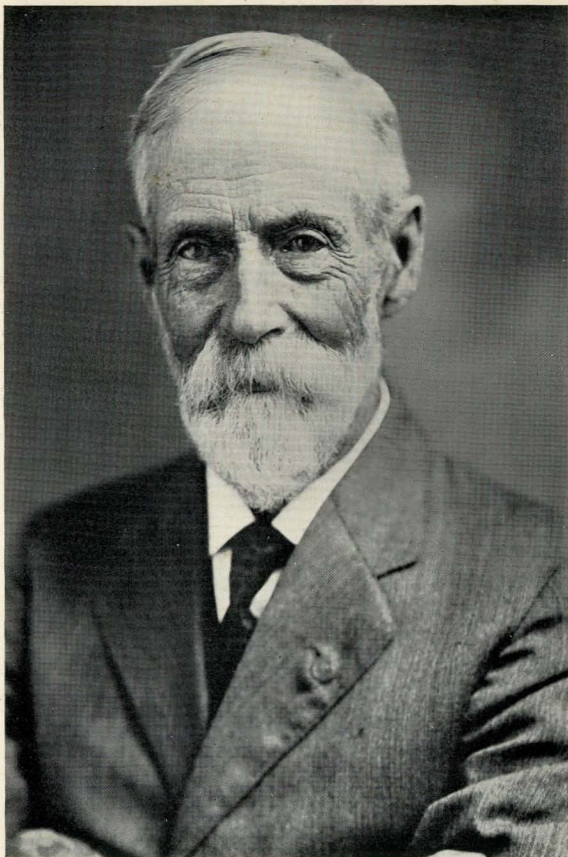
As far as the minutes show, Manchester Lodge has never lost a brother in war.

It is impossible to estimate at all accurately the total number of brethren or one-time brethren who have joined the "Silent Host" in the one hundred years gone by. The number must be 300 at the very least. Of them all it may be said they labored well in the Lodge and out of the Lodge in their day and generation. Now "they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

A FINAL WORD

All in all, the story of the life of Manchester Lodge, No. 73, A. F. & A. M., during the one hundred years now gone makes a fair record — a record of which every living Brother may well be proud. The names on her century-old roster are names of good men and true. Masonry stands for morality, brotherly love and the fear of God.

The Brothers of the earlier years were good Masons and were helped thereby to be good citizens, serving well their town and state. Beyond a shadow of doubt, Manchester has been a better town to live in because a Lodge of Masons early took up an abode within its borders. The present Brethren of the Lodge, now seven hundred strong, most of them possessed of the vigor and strength of young manhood, may best perpetuate the traditions of the Fraternity if in the new century now beginning they spend freely their time and strength in trying to make a better community and a better world. So did their fathers — so shall they do.



W. GEORGE M. BARBER

THE OLDEST PAST MASTER AND THE OLDEST
MEMBER OF THE LODGE
RAISED APRIL 10, 1866
MASTER 1870 AND 1871

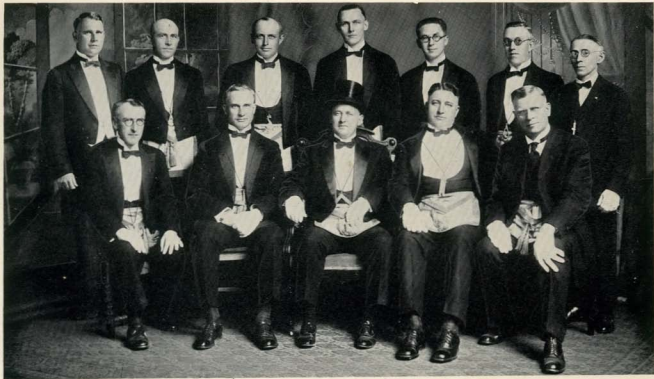
Worshipful Masters of Manchester Lodge, No. 73,

A. F. & A. M.

Armin Bolles	1826-1827	Benjamin A. Cadman	1893-1894
John Mather	1827-1845	William Ferguson	1895-1896
Peleg C. Remington	1845-1846	Wesley B. Porter	1897-1898
Henry Marble	1846-1849-1851	Fred A. Verplanck	1899-1900
Charles Cheney	*1850	Charles M. Murphy	1901-1902
Jesse Ladd	*1852	Thomas Gray	1903
William C. Strong	*1853	Chas. P. Montgomery	1904-1905
Ralph W. Houghton	*1854	Charles W. Fitch	1906
James McCormack	1855-1857	J. B. Hubbard	1907
Henry Gardner	1858-1860	William Walsh	1908
Ralph B. Treat	1861	Samuel L. Robinson	1909
Rudolphus DeLos Perry	1862	Nathan B. Richards	1910
Franklin Spaulding	1863	William S. Hyde	1911
E. S. Brainard	1864	Wesley H. B. Robbins	1912
Charles H. Arnold	1864-1868-1885	Herbert Ingham	1913
James W. Cheney	1869	R. LaMotte Russell	1914
George M. Barber	1870-1871	Francis A. Rolston	1915
Aaron Cook, Jr.	1872-1873	Fitch B. Barber	1916
DeWitt C. Hall	1874-1875 & 1882	Harry Trotter	1917
William C. White, Jr.	1876	Albert T. Dewey	1918
Jasper A. Fitch	1877-1879	Raymond W. Goslee	1919
A. J. Spencer	1880	Chas. R. Hathaway	1920
William A. Bushnell	1881	John H. Hyde	1921
Frank W. Havens	1883-1884 & 1886	James Richmond	1922
Charles H. Arnold	1885	Millard Park	1923
George W. Ferris	1887-1889	Joseph Wright	1924
Bethune J. Bartlett	1890	Geo. O. Nichols	1925
John D. Henderson	1891-1892	William G. Glenney, Jr.	1926

*Reported at annual meeting of Grand Lodge in May.

Note:—The annual elections occurred in August as late as 1846. The elections for 1855 occurred in January. Owing to loss of all records between these dates it is impossible to tell when the change was made.



OFFICERS OF MANCHESTER LODGE NO. 73

1926

OFFICERS

1926



W. GEORGE GLENNEY	Worshipful Master
HERMAN E. MONTIE	Senior Warden
JAMES O. McCAW	Junior Warden
HAROLD C. ALVORD	Treasurer
HARRY R. TROTTER	Secretary
HAROLD L. PRESTON	Senior Deacon
HERBERT L. TENNEY	Junior Deacon
EARL T. TROTTER	Senior Steward
WILLIAM J. THORNTON	Junior Steward
REV. JOSEPH COOPER	Chaplain
PETER WIND	Marshall
RALPH F. RODMAN	Organist
CHARLES E. LEWIS	Tyler

TRUSTEES



F. A. VERPLANCK
GEORGE M. BARBER
R. LAMOTTE RUSSELL

BUILDING COMMITTEE

William S. Hyde, *Chairman*
Loren C. Clifford, Jr., *Secretary*
Harold C. Alvord
Raymond W. Goslee
John H. Hyde
W. George Glenney
Herman E. Montie
James O. McCaw
Walter Olson
Millard W. Park
James Richmond
R. LaMotte Russell
Joseph Wright
William Walsh
Fred A. Verplanck

ARCHITECT

WALTER T. ARNOLD

BUILDER

MANCHESTER CONSTRUCTION Co.
William Knofla, President



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

FRED A. VERPLANCK, *Chairman*
HAROLD C. ALVORD
GEORGE M. BARBER
WILLIAM C. CHENEY
JOSEPH COOPER
ALBERT T. DEWEY
RAYMOND W. GOSLEE
W. GEORGE GLENNEY
ALFRED F. HOWES
WILLIAM S. HYDE
JOHN H. HYDE
CHARLES M. MURPHY
HERMAN E. MONTIE
JAMES O. McCAW
MILLARD W. PARK
NATHAN B. RICHARDS
R. LAMOTTE RUSSELL
HARRY R. TROTTER
WILLIAM WALSH



EAST CENTER STREET LOOKING WEST
*Building at the right is the Methodist Church in
which on August 13th, 1826 the first officers of
Manchester Lodge were installed.*

MENU



Minnestone Soup

Celery

Olives

Pickles

Salted Nuts

Rolls and Butter

Roast Filet of Beef, mushroom sauce

Mashed Potato

French Peas

Fruit

French Ice Cream

Coffee

Danish Pastry

Cigars

Cigarettes

PROGRAM



Invocation

REV. BROTHER JOSEPH COOPER
Chaplain, Manchester Lodge

Speakers

M. W. ARTHUR N. NASH
Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut

W. HORACE B. OLMSTED
Orient Lodge Number 62

BROTHER ALFRED F. HOWES
Historian

M. W. F. A. VERPLANCK
Chairman Centennial Committee

REV. W. ALEXANDER H. ABBOTT
Saint James Lodge Number 23

REV. BROTHER BYRON ULRIC HATFIELD
Grand Chaplain

W. WILLIAM S. HYDE
Presiding

Entertainment

Paramount Orchestra
Masonic Quartette