

HADDONFIELD LODGE NO. 130, F. & A. M.

1871 - 1995

In the fall of 1871, a group of Masons, desiring to form a Masonic Lodge at Haddonfield, assembled in Ionic Lodge No. 94, at Camden, and exhibited their proficiency in the degrees of Masonry to the satisfaction of that Lodge. A petition dated December 25, 1871, signed by the following fourteen Master Masons, requesting the establishment of a Lodge at Haddonfield, was presented to the Grand Lodge:

NAME/AGE	OCCUPATION	LODGE	DIED/AGE
Napoleon B. Jennings 41	Physician	Ionic #94	April 17, 1885 54
George C. Kay 32	Farmer	Camden #15	May 10, 1899 59
William C. Shinn 33	Gentleman	Camden #15	May 14, 1879 40
Edward S. Huston 44	Farmer	Camden #15	Jun 16, 1903 75
Edward W. Reeves 30	Surveyor	Camden #15	May 7, 1882 40
William R. Myers 28	Miller	Ionic #94	Jun 22, 1880 SNPD
William W. Beardslee 40	Sewing Mach. Agt.	Zion #1, Mich.	Dec 28, 1875 Dimit
James H. Pimlott 37	Wheelwright	Ionic #94	May 12, 1891 SNPD
Richard A. Ludlam	Mariner	Camden #15	Mar 24, 1885 SNPD
Jeremiah Adams	Mariner	Richmond #230, PA	May 12, 1891 SNPD
Junia Harris 35	Bank Clerk	Jerusalem #26	Mar 24, 1896 SNPD
Smith E. Risley	Mariner	Richmond #230, PA	Dec 10, 1890
Amasa May	Sales Clerk	Melita #295, PA	Oct 19, 1874
J. Morris Roberts 27	Farmer	Ionic #94	Dec 1922 78

At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in January 1872, MW. William E. Pine, Grand Master, in his address stated in part "I also received a petition for a new Lodge at Haddonfield, Camden County, to be hailed as Haddonfield Lodge. Believing the interest of Masonry could be better promoted by requiring applicants for the degrees to apply to one of the several Lodges in that immediate vicinity, I refused to grant the prayer of the petitioners. Several other petitions are upon the files of the Grand Secretary awaiting your action". The Committee of the Grand Masters address referred action of granting warrants to the Committee on Dispensations and Warrants. Their report was "To the MW Grand Lodge of New Jersey. The undersigned committee appointed to consider the dispensations granted by the MW Grand Master, and other applications for warrants for new Lodges, hereby report, that having examined the papers referred to them, they recommend that warrants be granted to the following Lodges, to wit:(and number 12 on the list was) "Haddonfield Lodge, in the village of Haddonfield, County of Camden with the officers named in the petition as #130."

RW Nathan Haines, Deputy Grand Master, reported at the 1873 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, "January 29th, I received from you a communication enclosing warrants for Merchantville Lodge #119, at Merchantville; Mozart Lodge #121, at Camden; and Haddonfield Lodge #130, at Haddonfield; accompanied by your full authority to constitute these Lodges and install their respective officers." "Saturday evening, February 10, I constituted Haddonfield Lodge No. 130, and installed the officers agreeably to ancient form and usage; at which time I was assisted by W. Bro. T. McDowell, C. W. Sartori and others of Ionic No. 94." Charles W. Sartori was Worshipful Master of Camden Lodge #15, in 1859, demitted to become a Charter member of Ionic Lodge. John W. Stratford, Junior Deacon of Ionic Lodge, took part in the installation and was sometime listed as a charter member. He was not a charter member of either Ionic Lodge or Haddonfield Lodge but affiliated with Haddonfield Lodge early in 1872 and served as Worshipful Master in 1874.

The officers were installed as follows: Napoleon B. Jennings, Worshipful Master; Edward W. Reeves, Senior Warden; George C. Kay, Junior Warden; Edward S. Huston, Treasurer; William C. Shinn, Secretary; William R. Myers, Senior Deacon; James H. Pimlott, Junior Deacon; Junia Harris and J. Morris Roberts, Master of Ceremonies; Reverend William C. Zane (Trenton Lodge No. 5) Chaplain and A. Lettelier, P.M. (La Fraternelle Francaise Lodge No. 62) Tyler.

Three of these fourteen charter members served as Worshipful Master. Napoleon B. Jennings (1872), Edward W. Reeves (1873) and J. Morris Roberts (1877). One demitted and five unfortunately were ultimately suspended for non-payment of dues. The first to die was Amasa May on October 19, 1874 and the last surviving charter member was J. Morris Roberts who died on December 16, 1922 at age 78.

MEMBERSHIP

Despite this rather inauspicious start the Lodge prospered. By the end of 1872 membership stood at 31. Many prominent merchants and business owners joined and by the turn of the century membership had reached 126. The mode of transportation dictated the membership in those early years. The automobile was in its infancy. There was trolley service between Camden and Haddonfield but the primary mode of transportation was commuter service on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Therefore the Lodge drew its membership primarily from Collingswood and Westmont to the West and Woodcrest, Ashland, Osage, Berlin and Atco to the East.

Membership grew steadily for the next quarter century, increasing each year except 1908 and 1917, reaching 580 in 1926. In 1908 and 1917 many members dimitted Haddonfield Lodge to join the newly formed Lodges at Haddon Heights and Collingswood respectively. Haddonfield Lodge was the mother Lodge to both Haddon Heights No. 191 and Collingswood No. 210.

Membership increased dramatically in the years following World War I. In a three year period, 1919 to 1921, a total of 165 candidates were raised to the sublime degree. The greatest number raised in any one year was 62 in 1920. Between 1926 and 1931 membership increased by only 8, reaching an interim high of 588.

The decade of the great depression took its toll and by 1943 membership had fallen to 373. The latter half of World War II and the years following saw another surge in membership which continued until 1960 at which time our membership reached an all time high of 597. Interest in Masonry apparently wanned at that time and membership has decreased each year until the merger with West Jersey Ladge in 1995. At that time membership was approximately 275,

MEETING PLACES

From the West Jersey Press, Wednesday, February 14, 1872 - "Haddonfield Jottings - Masonic - On Saturday Evening, the following officers of Haddonfield Lodge No. 130, F. & A. M., were installed by Deputy Grand Master, Nathan Haines, of New Jersey (Previously listed). Camden Lodge No. 15 and Ionic of Camden, together with Potter and Harmony Lodge, of Philadelphia, were largely represented. They met in Fortiner's Hall". This building was located at 202 Main (Kings Highway), near the Southeast corner of Main and Chestnut Streets. It was built in 1820 and relocated in 1949 to 8 Roberts Avenue and is now a private residence. The trustees were authorized to rent two apartments in this building for an annual rental of \$150. They met in this hall for nearly six years.

In October, 1877, the Lodge moved to the New Jersey Building. This building was originally erected at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Architecturally it was variously described as Queen Anne, Alpine and Victorian, leaning toward Norwegian. It was the first state building erected for the Centennial 100 feet long with an imposing eighty-five foot high tower. It was visited by two million bustle skirted ladies and frock-coated gentlemen during the exposition.

At the close of the Exposition it was purchased by Isaac A. Braddock, a Haddonfield builder for \$2,100 who dismantled it in January 1877, and brought one load to Haddonfield. Many local farmers came to his assistance and in thirty-seven wagons, brought the dismantled building to Haddonfield where it was reconstructed on the North side of Main Street, midway between Tanner and Machenic Streets. Mr. Braddock provided an oyster supper for all who took part and gave each man a rake. The auditorium on the second floor was used for all kinds of entertainments and socials including Haddonfield Lodge who met there until November 1882.

After it stood for nearly thirty years, it began to drop roofing tiles. They were heavy terra cotta and their falling became dangerous to pedestrians. The building was then sold to William Capern, a builder, and demolished.

Due to increasing membership the Lodge decided to investigate the possibility of constructing a Masonic Temple. In September 1882, a committee was appointed to select a suitable building site as near the business center of the borough as possible. In October 1882, a building lot at Lincoln and Washington Avenues was purchased for \$500, and in order to finance the construction of the building, a stock company was formed known as The Masonic Hall Association.

In the meantime, on November 28, 1882, the Lodge moved to the Grange Hall on the West side of Waknut Street, near Ellis Street. However, the Grand Lodge declared that this building was not a suitable place to hold Masonic meetings, as it was a low one story building with large double hung windows. The building is used today by the borough

On February 13, 1883, the Lodge moved once again to Clement's Hall, also known as the "Opera House", located in the rear of the B. F. Fowler Department store, which stood on the Southwest corner of Kings Highway and Ellis Street.

September 25, 1883, ground was broken for Haddonfield Lodge's first Masonic Temple which would be a single three-story building costing \$7,600. On May 13, 1884, the building was finished and dedicated with impressive ceremonies by MW Henry Verhlage, Grand Master, assisted by nearly all of the Grand Lodge Officers. The ceremonies took place in the new Hall at three p.m. after which the Grand Lodge Officers, invited guests, including the Honorable Leon Abbett, Governor of the State of New Jersey, and Past Master

of The Lodge of The Temple No. 110, Jersey City, and members of Haddonfield Lodge, in number about two hundred, repaired to the New Jersey Building and partook of a banquet. The Trustees of the Lodge were authorized to lease the Lodge Room from The Masonic Hall Association for a ten year term at a rental not to exceed \$175 per year.

On March 26, 1901, a committee was appointed to provide means for the purchase of the outstanding stock of The Masonic Hall Association. This, together with stock contributed by the members and the contribution of the second mortgage, made it possible for the Lodge to purchase the building and have the title vested in the name of the Trustees for Haddonfield Lodge. On May 13, 1909, the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Temple, was celebrated by paying off the entire mortgage. The Lodge continued to use this Hall for nearly thirty-eight years until a growing membership forced it to plan for a larger and more adequate quarters.

In August 1914, The Lodge purchased the property adjacent to the Presbyterian Church on Main Street for \$6,500 and in June 1915, the building committee presented a sketch with plans for a new Masonic Temple with the cost set at \$25,000. Two years later, in June 1917, bids for construction of the new Temple ranged from \$46,000 to \$52,000. But because of labor shortages and scarcity of building materials, due to World War I, building of the new Temple was put off. Finally, on February 18, 1921, the building committee reported that they had received bids from several responsible bidders and that they had, after due consideration, decided on the low responsible bid of \$67,725, and recommended an additional \$15,000 to pay for heating, lighting, furnishing and architects and mortgage fees, making a total amount requested \$83,225. The recommendations, after discussion, were voted upon and the committee was empowered to proceed with the construction and financing of the new Temple at a cost not to exceed \$85,000.

On June 22, 1921, the local police department closed Main Street in order that a parade could be held. In line were the Grand Lodge Officers and virtually all affiliated Masonic bodies including members of Cyrene Commandery No. 7, Knights Templar, who served as escort for the Grand Lodge Officers. The cornerstone of the new Temple was laid with appropriate ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone of a Masonic structure by MW Ernest A. Reed, Grand Master, assisted by his Grand Staff.

On February 28, 1922, the Lodge held its final communication in the Old Temple, saying farewell to the Old Lodge Hall and on March 14, 1922, the Lodge took possession of this present Temple which it has occupied continuously for the past seventythree years.

Wm D. Moore

Annual Communication, Masonic Hall, Trenton, Jan. 29 & 30, 1896

med. T. 1000.

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In view of the assurances made by my predecessor, M. W. Bro. Durand, which, owing to physical cares and press of official duties, he was unable to fulfill, I was requested to perform a ceremony seldom witnessed in this jurisdiction, but thoroughly within the province of the Grand Master - that of conferring the degrees of Masonry at sight. Under the direction of the Grand Master, a Lodge of Master Masons was opened in the rooms of Haddonfield Lodge No. 130, on the evening of Feb. 2, 1895, and assisted by my associate and subordinate Grand Officers and in the presence of a number of Past Grand Officers and visiting brethren, the Symbolic Degrees of Masonry were conferred upon Mr. William Garrett Moore, a resident of Haddonfield, N.J. and son of Worshipful Brother Henry D. Moore, of Haddonfield Lodge. The occasion was one of deep interest to all present. I am informed that the Brother subsequently affiliated with Haddonfield Lodge, and I trust that he will, in course of time, become an active and honored member. He has a distinction of which he may well be proud and in his after life can look back with peculiar pride and satisfaction to the circumstance and ceremonies attending his Masonic birth.

The above excerpt was taken from the address of M. W. Charles Belcher, Grand Master (1895) on Jan. 29, 1896

Bro. William Garrett Moore, a Mason at large, affiliated with Haddonfield Lodge on July 23, 1895 at age 21, served as Worshipful Master in 1902, died June 19, 1944. Interment, Harleigh Cemetery, Camden.