



# PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



Vol. 97

June 2022

No. 6

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All Roads lead to Harrisburg!  
Here's hoping for a harmonious and productive 50th Unified Session!

## SPRING RALLY A HUGE SUCCESS

On Saturday, April 30th, Mount Zion Lodge No. 74 of York, PA, played host to the Spring Rally. 10 members received the Initiatory Degree, 23 received the 3 Degrees and 7 Past Grands received the Grand Lodge Degree. It was a great day of Odd Fellowship. Lodges from all over the Jurisdiction came to take part in the festivities. Thanks to all who helped and to Mount Zion Lodge for being such a great host. Congratulations to the new members!



# The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

(USPS 426-500)

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In an effort to save money for the magazine, if you would like to receive this magazine via email instead of hard copy, please email the Grand Lodge at ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net with your name and Lodge and this will be done accordingly.



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**THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:**

- YORK SPRINGS LODGE NO. 211**  
 Cayle D. Swindler - initiated April 30th
- NUCLEUS LODGE NO. 377, FINLEYVILLE**  
 Michael Gruntz - initiated February 15th
- EARL LODGE NO. 413, NEW HOLLAND**  
 Travis W. Arment - initiated April 30th
- WARFORDSBURG LODGE NO. 601**  
 Laurel M. Voss - initiated April 30th
- VINCENT LODGE NO. 762, SPRING CITY**  
 Donald H. Shaner - initiated April 30th  
 Rod J. Stoker
- ASKAM LODGE NO. 899, SUGAR NOTCH**  
 John Zinga - initiated May 2nd
- LITITZ LODGE NO. 1050**  
 Peter J. Knockstead - initiated April 30th  
 Donald E. Wyand  
 Joan F. Lobb  
 Foster M. Lobb  
 John A. Chapis

## DESK OF THE GM



May the  
LIGHTHOUSE  
be your Guiding  
Light and the  
Fraternal Beacon of  
Friendship!!

My Brothers and Sisters, GREETINGS to all!!!

June 2022!! It is hard to believe that this is my last message I am writing as your Grand Master. It seems like just yesterday I was writing my first message and now it is fourteen messages later. This past year has been a time of growth for me not only as the Grand Master, but also personally. Primarily, I want to thank all my brothers and sisters for the faith and confidence you placed in me. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the lodges in this jurisdiction as your Grand Master. My year afforded me many opportunities to represent Pennsylvania. I, along with my staff, traveled throughout our state visiting many of our lodges. Being with brothers and sisters was one of the greatest pleasures, I had. As of this writing, I have visited thirty lodges, traveling a total of 8,500 miles. My only regret, not being able to visit ALL our lodges.

Since my last writing, I had the pleasure to travel along with the Grand Warden, to our neighboring state of Ohio to attend their Grand Lodge Session. I had the opportunity to meet four other Grand Masters who were also in attendance. We shared our hopes and dreams for our order and at the end of our time together I am delighted to say, my friendships now extend into West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

Our Spring Rally is right around the corner. On April 30th, we will be at Mount Zion Lodge #74 in York, PA for an all-day rally, conferring degrees for a large class of new Odd Fellows. A grand total of twenty-two brothers and sisters received their degrees. What a great day for ODD FELLOWSHIP!!! It is always a wonderful day for Odd Fellowship when we can welcome brothers and sisters into our order. I urge every Odd Fellow to support our new members; to be mentors; and to extend the hand of friendship as they start their Odd Fellow journey. We are a part of a rich history of Odd Fellowship. Our order has been in our country for over two hundred years, supporting one another; reaching out to help those in need, helping to educate our youth; and being an active member

in our communities. My hope is that you will keep on telling our story to one and all. For it is a story worth telling. What a journey it has been this past year! It was a year filled with good experiences and good memories; and oh, the friendships I have made. I have truly been blessed!!

The question which has been asked by a few, "what is next"? What will I, Shirley J. Whitlinger do, after the gravel has been passed to our next Grand Master? Well, I plan to remain active, working within my home lodge and more importantly, my community. This has always been my desire and my hope to be able to help others. Joy for me, is to be there for everyone; to encourage others; to support and to give any needed help to others. I wish is also that you all have the same desire.

Always remember, "when one door closes, God always opens another."

In Friendship, love, and truth

And, Always with God's guiding hand,

*Shirley J. Whitlinger.*

Your Grand Master

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers congratulates the following on achieving milestone years in Odd Fellowship this month.

### 30 YEARS

David T. Onraet, #447

### 35 YEARS

John C. Molchany, #192

### 40 YEARS

Mon Valley Rebekah Lodge No. 82,  
Finleyville

### 50 YEARS

Gerald W. Guscott, Sr., #86  
John A. Roman, Sr., #306

### 55 YEARS

Robert Q. Golden, #601

Warren C. Golden, #601

Stanley E. Palmer, #601

Clair W. Hawkins, #773

### 70 YEARS

John E. McFadden, #957

### 75 YEARS

Robert T. Reed, #551

Lady Landis Rebekah Lodge No. 303,  
New Bloomfield

## ODD FELLOWS HOME OF WESTERN PA CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Odd Fellows Home of Western Pennsylvania in Meadville, continues to support students in the thirteen Northwest Pennsylvania counties by providing Citizenship Awards through ten Vocational Technical Career Centers and six individual high schools.

Recipients of 2022 Continuing Education Citizenship Awards of \$700: Dillion Anthony, Kalynn Heaton, Jaelyn Mohny, Kiran Bugbee, Sarah Jones.

Recipients of 2022 School to Work Citizenship Awards of \$600: Sean Minnick, Eric Conway, Richelle Allhouse, Seth Renrick, Joseph Datko, Brady Steele.

The Citizenship Awards committee selected the following students to also receive a 2022 Board Memorial Award in the amount of \$1,000 each: Dillion Anthony from Clarion High School and Brady Steele from Corry Area High School.

The Board of Directors have awarded \$104,650.00 since 2012 to students through participating schools as an investment in the future.

# Places to Go ... People to See

## JUNE

- 4 / Grand Encampment Rally,  
Johnstown
- 24 - Jul 1 / 50th Unified Session,  
Harrisburg

## AUGUST

- 27 / PGM Whitlinger & PGP Miller  
Testimonial, Gibsonia +

## SEPTEMBER

- 17 / Mid-Atlantic Division AMOS,  
Calvin
- 24 / PDC Torrence/APP Walters  
Testimonial, Shartlesville +

+ denotes details to follow  
 \*\* On the second Sunday of each month,  
 at 1:00PM, year round, Centre Lodge #153  
 of Bellefonte is still conducting their Music  
 Jams! Please check their facebook first because  
 there may be a scheduling conflict! - Due to  
 COVID-19, these are on hold. Contact their  
 Facebook page for more information

All Lodges are reminded when planning an  
 activity, if you would like your state officer's  
 support please contact the Grand Lodge at  
 ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net or 717-944-7419

# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GREENE COUNTY

The Rebekah Lodges numbered around 1,000. Some of the numbers, you'll also see more than once, as some of these Lodges only lasted a few years.

How many Rebekah Lodges were in YOUR County?!

Did you ever wonder if your town had a Rebekah Lodge?  
 Do you know where it was or do you even remember some of these Lodges?  
 If you can take a picture of the Lodge Hall that was once in your town and mail it in, we'd be glad to have it for our archives and it could perhaps end up in the magazine!

### GREENE COUNTY:

- Carmichaels - Lady Penn Rebekah Lodge #492 - consolidated 1974
- Clarksville - Lady Clark Rebekah Lodge #191 - consolidated
- Dunkard - Lady Taylor Rebekah Lodge #479 - defunct 1992
- Jefferson - Charlotte Rebekah Lodge #104 - defunct 1880
- Jollytown - Elaine Rebekah Lodge #435 - defunct 1924
- Kuhntown - Sunset Rebekah Lodge #418 - consolidated
- Waynesburg - Hanna Rebekah Lodge #44 - defunct 1900
- Waynesburg - Lady Greene Rebekah Lodge #385 - consolidated 1985
- Wind Ridge - Ethel Gray Rebekah Lodge #69 - defunct prior to 1900
- Wind Ridge - Olive Rebekah Lodge #280 - defunct 1920

10 Rebekah Lodges with 0 active  
 1st Rebekah Lodge - Ethel Gray Rebekah Lodge #69 in 1872

18 Odd Fellow Lodges

**Next Month Wyoming County.**  
 Get your pictures and articles in now!

## NEW FLAGS AT GL OFFICE

*Thank you to those who donated flags for the Grand Lodge office!*

The Odd Fellow Flag currently being flown is presented in loving memory of Past Grand Junior Warden Raymond R. "Bull" Boulanger, Jr., by Scott Encampment No. 132.

The Rebekah Flag currently being flown is presented in memory of all Rebekah's who passed away this year by Sarah M. Baer

The American Flag currently being flown is presented in memory of PDDGM Robert R. Fenimore and PG Leon I. Work, of Clover Lodge No. 348, by DGM J. Carl George

Shown is DGM Carl George, raising the flag in memory of Robert Fenimore and Leon Work



## HONESDALE ODD FELLOWS DONATE BENCH

(Honesdale, March 31, 2022)...A new park bench graces the landing outside the main entrance at Wayne Memorial Hospital (WMH) thanks to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Freedom Lodge #88 of Honesdale. The fraternal order collected over five hundred pounds of soft plastics in the NexTrex recycling program for the eco-friendly outdoor bench donated to WMH.

The local organization is a member of the non-political, non-sectarian, international IOOF that promotes personal and social development. They engage in various fundraisers and collect donations for veterans, scholarships for students, and more. Odd Fellow member and Wayne Memorial CT Scan/Radiology Technologist Doug Buchinski, who helped facilitate the installation, said the bench provides a nice place to take a break, enjoy the fresh air, and a seat for patients waiting to be picked up.

Wayne Memorial thanks IOOF Freedom Lodge #88 and for all you do for the community.

~ Courtesy of Wayne Memorial Hospital



Sitting, l. to r.: Vice Grand Nadine Hager, Secretary Jessica Kilmer. Standing: Past Vice Grand Forrest Goodenough, Past Grand Mike Kinzinger; WMH Director Facilities Tim Huber; Noble Grand Andrew Kilmer, Brother Doug Buchinski/WMH CT technologist; WMH CEO Jim Pettinato; Districts 9/10 Deputy Grand Master Paul Lautenschlager, Past Grand Herald James Lautenschlager and Brother Dennis Buchinski.

## FINAL REMINDER: ODD FELLOWS & REBEKAHS ASSOC. OF W. PA 2022 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The *Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania* began accepting applications for consideration in the awarding of a maximum of six (6) \$4,000 scholarships. This will mark the 17th consecutive year that the Association has offered these Awards and having awarded a total, thus far, of \$163,000. The application deadline for the 2022 Scholarship Awards will be Thursday, **June 30, 2022**. A copy of the "Rules," along with an "Application," was sent to all the lodges representing the Western District on April 1, 2022. All areas of concentration will be considered.

### An important reminder regarding three of the requirements for the Awards:

- 1) The applicant or a living family relative must be a member of the I.O.O.F or Rebekahs of Western Pennsylvania,
- 2) The applicant must have completed **at least one year** at an accredited college/university or technical/trade school, and
- 3) The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited college/university or technical/trade school.

### If interested in obtaining a copy of the "Rules" and an "Application," this can be done by:

- 1) contacting your Lodge secretary,
- 2) emailing Chairman Robert Grant at "robag@comcast.net," or
- 3) downloading from our website: "[www.glpaioof.org](http://www.glpaioof.org)" during the April through June time period.

## EARL R. LEIBY ENCAMPMENT #106 GRAND PATRIARCH OV



On April 14, the Grand Patriarch traveled to Leesport on an official visit to Earl R. Leiby Encampment. As always we had yummy refreshments and good fellowship. Leesport Lodge has won many awards at the Leesport Community Days for having the best burger! So if you are in the area the Saturday before Labor Day, stop at their booth for some outstanding food. Traveling this evening with GP, Shawn E. Miller were Yvonne M. Calhoun, Grand Senior Warden; Sandy L. Huchel, Grand Scribe and James W. Sellers, Grand Treasurer. It was also nice having PGP Neil B. Thomas, PGP Paul E. Miller and PSG Musician Paul L. Miller attend the meeting. It was a joy to hear Paul L. Miller play his beautiful piano music again. Thank you to Earl R. Leiby Encampment for their hospitality and to our photographer, Jim Sellers!

## DDGM HILT HONORED FOR SERVICE

At the Spring rally, Grand Master Whitlinger presented DDGM Frank A. Hilt with his 10-year membership pin. Brother Hilt is a member of Victory Lodge No. 658, Sellersville, is currently serving as District Deputy Grand Master for District #2, and is the Vice President for the District Deputy Grand Master Association. He has also served in the past as Grand Conductor. He holds Associate membership in Montgomery-Curtis-Norris Lodge #57 of Norristown and Patriarchal membership in Bushkill Encampment #55 of Sellersville. Congrats Frank!



## SGL HUNGER & DISASTER FUND UKRAINE RELIEF

It is amazing how the Jurisdiction came together to assist in Ukrainian relief. The following has been received at the Grand Lodge office:

278 Connoquenessing	2,000.00	1010 Kingwood	250.00	C39 Allentown	70.00
413 Earl	1,734.75	55 Fred R. Korman	150.00	591 Shenandoah	50.00
270 Mystic	1,000.00	2 Unified	100.00	R198 Golden Rule	50.00
306 Walker	1,000.00	86 Harmony	100.00	R443 Wysox	50.00
74 Mount Zion	500.00	192 Jordan	100.00	R86 Lady Harmony	25.00
87 Hopkins	500.00	562 Newburg	100.00	C1 Philadelphia	25.00
1128 Fallowfield	500.00	847 Vienna	100.00	C9 Northeast	<u>25.00</u>
211 York Springs	400.00	1175 Shillington	100.00		<b>\$9,279.75</b>
512 Thistle	250.00	E34 Valley	100.00		

The following has been received at the Grand Encampment Office:

E135 Perseverance	3,000.00
E14 Mount Vernon	500.00
E127 William F. Packer	500.00
E132 Scott	100.00
E98 Kossuth	50.00
LEA98 Kossuth	50.00
E106 Earl R. Leiby	<u>25.00</u>
	<b>\$4,225.00</b>



#413 - Earl Lodge No. 413 of New Holland, as you see, donated \$1,734.75. It should be noted that this Lodge donated this money through their semi-annual chicken BBQ. All the proceeds were donated to Ukrainian relief. Not only is this Odd Fellowship at work, but it is great publicity in their community. Keep up the good work!



## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

Members of Vienna Lodge #847 of Allentown, Victory Lodge #658, Bushkill Encampment #55 and Canton Allentown #39 all of Sellersville took Part in the Annual Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley "Bowl for Kids Sake" at the Jordan Lanes in Allentown. A big thank you to the above for raising \$625.00 for this great cause and coming together for great day of fellowship.



## APRIL OBITUARIES

Due to publication time, we regret we cannot accept Obituaries older than three months.



**WAYNE R. TROUTMAN**  
Triune Lodge No. 307  
February 15, 2022

Brother Wayne R. "Ted" Troutman, 86, of York, was initiated into Triune Lodge #307, Middletown, PA, on March 21, 1989, where he became a Past Grand October 15, 1991.

He was a member of the Calvary Bible Church, Wrightsville.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Anna Mae Zimmerman, one son and one great-granddaughter. Surviving are three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.



**GUY W. SHOUP**  
Fallowfield Lodge No. 1128  
April 7, 2022

Brother Guy W. Shoup, 93, of Emlenton, PA, was initiated into Emlenton Lodge #644 on April 28, 1960, where he became a Past

Grand. He became a member of Oil City Lodge #589, Seneca, through consolidation on July 26, 1969, Queen City Lodge #304, Titusville, through consolidation on August 7, 1996, Edinboro Lodge #510 on September 9, 2010 and finally Fallowfield Lodge #1128, Atlantic, through consolidation on January 11, 2021. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving member of Emlenton Lodge #644 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of the Emlenton Presbyterian Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Helen Eaton, and one son. Surviving is one daughter.

Burial was held in Scrubgrass Stone Church Cemetery, Emlenton.



**RICHARD C. BICEHOUSE**  
Sandy Lake Lodge No. 573  
April 16, 2022

Brother Richard C. "Dick" Bicehouse, 85, of Grove City, PA, was initiated into Worth Lodge #554, Hendersonville, PA on April

14, 1969. He then became a member of Sandy Lake Lodge #573 through consolidation on October 6, 1975. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving member of Worth Lodge #554 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Grove City, PA.

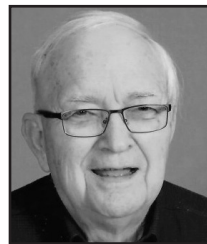
Surviving is his wife, the former Patricia Elliott, three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Crestview Memorial Park, Grove City.

**LOUIS T. CORCHIOLO, SR.**  
Walker Lodge No. 306  
April 21, 2022

Brother Louis T. Corchiolo, Sr., 83, of Philadelphia, PA, was initiated into Walker Lodge #306, Philadelphia, on November 17, 1975.

Surviving is his wife, Joanne, three children and their spouses, one being Brian Corchiolo, also of Walker Lodge, a son-in-law, Richard Luna, also of Walker Lodge and seven grandchildren.



**TERRY P. PRICE**  
Leesport Lodge No. 141  
Earl R. Leiby Encampment No. 106  
April 21, 2022

Brother Terry P. Price, 80, of Shillington, PA, was initiated into Symmetry Lodge #103, Hamburg, PA, on January 25, 1962, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree November 7, 1970. He then became a member of Leesport Lodge #141 through consolidation on April 23, 1996. At the time of the consolidation, he was Symmetry Lodge's Secretary. He was also a Patriarch of Earl R. Leiby Encampment #106, Leesport, having joined June 16, 1967.

He was a PA Air National Guard Veteran and a member of Kissinger's Church of Wyomissing.

Surviving is his wife, the former Loretta Sweitzer, two sons and four grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held at Berks County Memorial Gardens, Fleetwood, PA.



**MILDRED E. WERLEY**  
Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge No. 202  
April 27, 2022

Sister Mildred E. (Miller) Werley, 95, of Allentown, PA, was initiated into Lady Fogel Rebekah Lodge #581, Fogelsville, PA, on September 24, 1968, where she became a Past Noble Grand on October 8, 1974. She became a member of Lady Lillie Best Rebekah Lodge #222, Schnecksville, through consolidation on August 18, 1982, and finally Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge #202, Nazareth, PA, through consolidation on April 19, 2018.

She was a member of Weisenberg Church, New Tripoli, PA.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy. Surviving is a daughter, one son, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Burial was held in the Weisenberg Church Cemetery, New Tripoli.



## MAY OBITUARIES

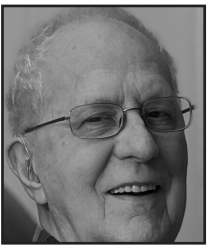


**RICHARD B. MEREDITH**  
**Unified Lodge No. 2**  
**May 6, 2022**

Brother Richard B. "Dick" Meredith, was initiated into Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, PA, on March 11, 2010, where he served many years as Outside Guardian, an office

he was holding at the time of his death.

Surviving is his wife, Joanne.



**Alpha G. Hockenberry**  
**Past District Deputy Grand Master**  
**Alma Lodge No. 523**  
**William F. Packer Encampment**  
**No. 127**  
**May 20, 2022**

Brother Alpha G. "Al" Hockenberry, 83, of Johnstown, PA, was initiated into Alma Lodge #523, Johnstown, on January 16, 1998, where he became a Past Grand on April 7, 2000 and received his Grand Lodge Degree on September 22, 2007. He then served as District Deputy Grand Master from 2008 - 2014. He became a Patriarch of William F. Packer Encampment #127, Johnstown, on October 17, 2000, where he became a Past Chief Patriarch on September 19, 2006. He served as Treasurer for many years. On October 21, 2021, he was presented with the Merit Jewel from Alma Lodge for his dedication to the Order.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Johnstown.

Surviving is his wife, the former Linda Himes, sons, Edward and David, three grandchildren and two sisters, Catherine Margroum and Karen Stem. Brother Al sponsored most of his family to join the Lodge, in which they are still members.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held in Richland Cemetery, Johnstown, PA.

## PENNSYLVANIA LAYS WREATH

After missing the last two years due to Covid, the Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, VA, was held in it's 88th year. This year, placing the wreath, (left to right) are Brigadier General Nicole B. Inama, Department Adjutant; Grand Master Shirley J. Whitlinger, Grand High Priest Laura L. Huchel and APP Kathryn D. Walters. It was more of a chilly day then what we were used to, but the rain held off for the service, making it a beautiful day and a memorable experience.



## THE TREASURER'S TALES

### JUNE 2022

We continue following Barney's exploits on a month by month basis and we are now at June 1927. Notable events for that time period have been listed in prior months and I see no reason to change my style this month. On June 1 the Peace Bridge between US and Canada opened. On June 11, baseball legend Babe Ruth hits his 19th & 20th homers of the baseball season when he set the record 60 home runs, in New York's 6-4 win over the Cleveland Indians. Also on June 11, Charles Lindbergh was awarded the first Distinguished Flying Cross. On June 23, New York first baseman Lou Gehrig hits 3 home runs in Yankees' 11-4 victory over Boston Red Sox. On June 8, Jerry Stiller was born in Brooklyn. On June 27, Bob Keeshan, American actor (Captain Kangaroo), was born in Lynbrook, New York; I watched for many hours as a child. On June 1, Lizzie Borden died from pneumonia. Lizzie was accused of murdering her parents and acquitted in a sensational trial, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lizzie\\_Borden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lizzie_Borden).

Stardust was the number one song of 1927, you can hear a bit of it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOLCe3OHaj4>. Popular motion pictures from 1927 include: *The Jazz Singer*, *7th Heaven* and *The King of Kings*. You can see a trailer for *The Jazz Singer* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZpX1B6n5Fc/> You can see a trailer for *7th Heaven* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hqw4a51qhHs>. You can see a trailer for *The King of Kings* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3bnbMLpr5U>.

June is the month for weddings, picnics, parades, Flag Day, Father's Day and fishing. Flag Day is dedicated to Patriotism. Organizations such as the Sons of the American Revolution sponsor events to celebrate Flag Day. Here are a couple songs to put you in the mood: *Star-Spangled Banner* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQKNU3q7DMk> and *It's a Grand Old Flag* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCqDxq-d2h4>.

School ended in late May and Barney worked feverishly to get his crops in and make

way for summer activities. In prior years, Barney milked around 6:00 p.m. This corresponded to the morning milking at 6:00 a.m. Barney had not primarily been a dairy farmer but he thought he would change the mix of his herd in 1927. Previously he had only six fresh cows and a couple heifers. On the first day after the school term ended, he went to the livestock auction, taking Vic with him. They walked around for an hour before bidding started on dairy cattle. Barney had saved up several thousand dollars and he wanted to start a new business. He bought seven fresh cows, a mix of Guernsey and Jersey breeds.

There is a master plan for the herd. Barney had acquired a small storefront in Grovers Mill at a tax sale. The prior owner had died with no heirs and the building went fairly cheap. Barney hired his brothers-in-law, Woody and John, to clean up and renovate the small store front. He bought a small wood stove and an early refrigerator, see: <https://www.albanyinstitute.org/ge-monitor-top-refrigerator.html>. He also bought six White Mountain ice cream freezers.

With thirteen cows, Barney was in the dairy business. He opened his dairy bar on Friday, June 17, 1927. He had vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream. There were two tables and eight seats at the counter. His sister-in-law, Mary, was the waitress. He worked the crank on the freezers and provided the milk. Elizabeth cooked the egg mixture, with the children spending the day with her mother, Alice. Since she used eggs, it was technically frozen custard and not ice cream. The people loved it. The menu was short but attractive, ice cream, sodas, soft drinks, white and chocolate milk, sundaes, and the ever-popular banana split.

When Barney opened, he thought this would be a great seasonal business. His expectations were exceeded. This was the heart of Prohibition and a dairy bar attracted adults as well as young people. He didn't have enough space for all his customers, so he began to sell pints and quarts of ice cream for takeout. He was working nineteen hours a day. Elizabeth was getting worn out, looking after children

and making ice cream. Barney's past students made the dairy bar a primary meeting place. He put a couple benches on the sidewalk outside, but that still wasn't enough. On days when it rained, the takeout business increased.

His garbage was scattered all over the back lot every morning, it appeared that scraps from ice cream production attracted wild animals (mostly raccoons). There was no remedy except for metal cans with tight fitting lids. He took the garbage to the dump twice a week.

Success comes at a cost. Barney needed to hire a farm hand, and he found a recent high school graduate filled the bill. This took some pressure off him, but Elizabeth was finding the stress too much and Barney had to hire a person to work in the kitchen and let Elizabeth go back home. The income was very attractive, but he was wearing out. He hired Woody full-time to crank the ice cream freezers and he spent a little more time on the farm. He was at a loss as to how he could keep this going when he went back to school.

The last week of June, Barney got the biggest surprise of his business career. The Odd Fellows were planning a massive degree rally for Atlantic City and they wanted him to supply the ice cream. Three days preparation was required. He rented a truck, filled it with ice and drove to Atlantic City, where he was given a hero's welcome. Barney was making more money than he ever did teaching, but he was spending a lot of money on wages and supplies such as coke syrup and sugar.

Barney would sell his dairy bar within two months of opening it. He would make a profit and would supply milk and eggs to the new owners. Barney had proved a successful business man, but gave it up to return to teaching school. The versatility of Odd Fellows should never be underestimated.

*Comments and questions are always welcomed by the Grand Treasurer. You can contact him by email at [jcupp275@gmail.com](mailto:jcupp275@gmail.com) or conventional mail at P.O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445.*

## EASTER 2022

This Easter was very exciting here at the Middletown Home. Since Covid, we have not been able to have a Community Easter Egg Hunt. We were amazed at the wonderful turn out this year since it had been so long since we last hosted an egg hunt! Other years we would have at most 20-25 kids come to participate. This year, we were shocked to see at least 150 people (kids and adults) come to enjoy our Easter activities! We were thankful that we had lots of eggs prepared so that all the kids could find a few eggs hidden around the Terrace and the Chapel. The kids were very enthusiastic about finding the special “Golden Egg.” If you found the Golden Egg you got a special Easter Basket for a prize! One little boy found the Golden Egg hidden in a bush – he was very proud! The Easter Bunny made an appearance and got pictures with the kids and with our residents. The Root Beer Floats were very popular! The line went from the Chapel, down the steps, and out the door! Some of the kids even got to meet our little guinea pigs in the café, Pumpkin and Bingo. It was a great Easter Egg Hunt and we are hoping this is an indicator that we will continue to have great turn outs for other events this summer.



## ODD FELLOWS SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS

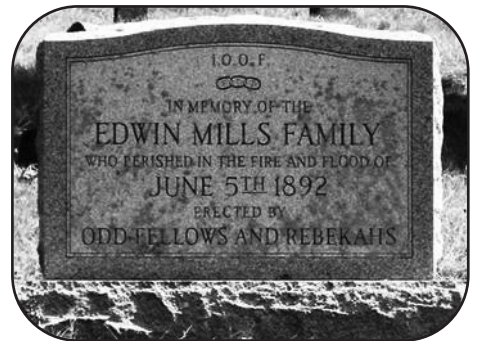
I was contacted by the SGL from a lady in Dublin, Ireland, Maria O'Brien, who was doing genealogy on some family members of hers who immigrated to the United States in the 1800's. We receive these almost weekly, normally looking for information on who they were, where they came from, etc. Unfortunately, our records at Grand Lodge were destroyed during Hurricane Agnes, so we don't have much, if any, information. This woman though did not contact me to ask any questions, but to impress upon us what we did, and who we are, and thank us for what we did. I will continue by citing from the “Oil City Derrick” of June 8, 1892:

### “The Mills Family

At 10:30 a.m. the remains of the Mills family were brought from the dead house. They were those of the father, Edwin Mill, aged 38 years; the mother, Mrs. Mary Mills, aged 35 years; the oldest daughter, Emily Mills, aged 13 years; Florence Mills, aged 11 years; Amy Mills, aged 8 years; Maud Mills, 5 years old; and the baby, Edith Mills, aged 3 years. As the seven caskets containing the remains of the entire Mills family were carried to the grave by the 32 members of the I.O.O.F., who acted as pall bearers, an involuntary sigh went from the hearts of the large crowd that surrounded the grave that rose from the silence of the cemetery like the dying groan of a giant. The services were conducted by Rev. J. M. Thornburn and the internment was in charge of the Odd Fellows, Mr. Mills being a member of that fraternity. The ritual service of the order was conducted by Rev. Dr. Crane,

of Franklin, assisted by Chaplain J. S. Shearer. At the conclusion Rev. Dr. Crane pronounced a short eulogy on the works of the order that came from his heart. The father, Edwin Mills, came to this country less than two years ago, and has been employed in the W. N. Y., & P. shops here during that period. A year ago he sent for his wife and family, and so far as known they have no relatives on this side of the ocean. They were buried in the relief lot side by side.”

Doing further research, Ms. O'Brien found there was a flood on June 5th, 1892, 130 years ago. A heavy rainstorm had raised the creek to an unusual height and carried away the Spartansburg Dam. The flood came through Titusville, destroying a portion of the town. If you are not familiar with this area, and perhaps didn't assume how “Oil City” got its name, there are many oil fields, and oil tanks, in these areas. The flood waters took up many of these oil tanks. As it came down this area, onto Seneca street, with water and thousands of gallons of oil, it filled the area with a yellowish vapor. During this time, though electric was around, many houses still used gas for many things. The first explosion lit a half mile of fire above the creek bridge and the houses on the banks. The second explosion set all of Seneca Street on fire. The third explosion ran through the third ward of town. 75 houses were burned during this time. As the town burned, many people ran to the hills to escape being burned or drowned. They estimated over 60 people perished.



Following this, as you can tell, and being a member for less than two years, the Odd Fellows came forth to bury their Brother and his family. What a spectacle that had to have been to see Odd Fellowship work like this. In 1960, they placed the marker (shown) in remembrance of these 7 people. This came from Oil City Lodge No. 589 and Ella Rebekah Lodge No. 36, of Oil City, both now having faded into history. This family came to America for a better life and in less than a year, they were all gone. “May their Gentle Souls Forever rest in Peace”

A huge thank you to Maria O'Brien for finding this information. It's times like these to show how important Lodges are to the communities. Though there are ways now to help out, without being in the Odd Fellows, efforts like what we are doing now for Ukraine, for example, set us apart from others. As we move forward into the future, we must find ways of continuing to help those, like the Mills Family.

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 Periodicals

## APRIL DONATIONS

### ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

762	Spring City	200.00
1128	Fallowfield	68.09
2	Unified	50.00
969	Ridgway	50.00
1004	Hampton	50.00
R173	Letitia Penn	<u>25.00</u>
		443.09

### VISUAL ASSISTANCE

2	Unified	25.00
C9	Northeast	<u>25.00</u>
		50.00

### VISUAL RELIEF

1128	Fallowfield	68.09
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		93.09

### PENNSYLVANIA ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE

192	Jordan	100.00
471	Rush	25.00
C9	Northeast	<u>25.00</u>
		150.00

### PA EDUCATION SCHOLARHIP FUND

Odd Fellows & Rebekah's Association of Western Pennsylvania		20,000.00
2	Unified	50.00
471	Rush	25.00
C9	Northeast	<u>25.00</u>
		20,100.00

### EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

1128	Fallowfield	170.22
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