



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



Vol. 98

January 2023

No. 1

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.glpaioof.org>

Follow us on Facebook at The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Independent Order of Odd Fellows

NEW You can also follow us on Instagram at @paoddfellows

FOSTER LODGE NO. 333, OF REW, REINSTITUTED

History was made on December 6th, as a delegation gathered in McKean County to help secure Odd Fellowship in the 17th district. We started off at the hall of Smethport Lodge No. 389, the county seat, where we initiated five new members into Warren Lodge #339 and Smethport Lodge #389. After the initiatory Degree was conferred, the three degrees were conducted by Grand Master Carl George, Grand Secretary Justin Bailey and help from the other two Lodges.

Following the degrees, the members travelled to Rew, to reinstitute and install the new officers of Foster Lodge No. 333. Foster Lodge was instituted December 22, 1884 and went defunct January 27, 2020, due to lack of membership. We are

humbled and proud to bring this Lodge back. The population of what the charter reads of "Rew City" in 2020 was 151, so no longer a city, but now we are pleased to bring them back home. Foster Lodge is also proudly displaying charters of other Lodges that were once in McKean County - Eldred, Port Allegany, Bradford and Mt. Jewett. They are meeting in the United Methodist Church basement. Thanks go out to Freeport Lodge #379 for storing Foster Lodge's items and to Charleroi Lodge #1030 for the station chairs.

Welcome back Foster Lodge and congratulations to Warren Lodge #339 and Smethport Lodge #389 on your new members!



The Charter members of Foster Lodge (l to r) Mary Schultz Treasurer, David Hughes Inside Guardian, David Ball Warden, Jane Cole Vice Grand, GM Carl George, Russell Knight Noble Grand, Tracy Tanner Secretary, Troy Herzog Chaplain



The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

(USPS 426-500)

Published in the City of Middletown, PA monthly by
THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
 1001 West Harrisburg Pike
 Middletown, PA 17057
 717-944-7419
 iooofpaglsecty@verizon.net
 http://www.grandlodgeofpennsylvaniaioof.org

JUSTIN C. BAILEY
 Editor
 1001 West Harrisburg Pike
 Middletown, PA 17057

Publication Number 426500
 Periodical Postage paid at Middletown, Pennsylvania and additional offices.

**** Postmaster ****
 Send change of address to:
 Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine
 1001 W. Harrisburg Pike
 Middletown, PA 17057

SUBSCRIPTION RATE
 Subscription price \$10.00 per year
 10 or more to one address \$9.00 each

Subscribers should be careful to give their correct post office address and when a change is necessary be sure to mention the former address.

Articles for publication must reach the office of the Grand Lodge in Middletown not later than the 5th of each month to insure their insertion in next month's issue.

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 iooofpaglsecty@verizon.net with your name and Lodge and this will be done accordingly.



OFFICERS OF GRAND LODGE

- J. CARL GEORGE..... GRAND MASTER
225 Sunridge Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 724-601-8098 quickcarl73@comcast.net
- ROBERT B. RUFF..... DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
1819 Forbes Avenue, Apt 5A, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412-621-0872 ruff2u@aol.com
- PAUL E. LAUTENSCHLAGER..... GRAND WARDEN
101 Maplewood Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431 570-877-5925 pelmhl@hotmail.com
- JUSTIN C. BAILEY..... GRAND SECRETARY
1001 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-7419 iooofpaglsecty@verizon.net
- JOHN S. CUPP, JR..... GRAND TREASURER
P. O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445 724-437-4629 jcupp275@gmail.com
- WILLIAM L. RAMSEY, JR..... GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
16620 Trough Creek Valley Pike, Apt 1, Calvin, PA 16622 814-599-0617 wlr Ramsey0809@gmail.com
- DAVID A. YOUNG..... GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022 724-344-7550 iamanoddfellow@comcast.net
- SHIRLEY J. WHITLINGER..... JR. PAST GRAND MASTER
208 Tyler Court, Gibsonia, Pa. 15044 724-443-3012 whitx2@msn.com
- MICHAEL J. WALLIS..... GRAND MARSHAL
1080 Ridge Road, Montgomery, PA 17752
- FRANK A. HILT..... GRAND CONDUCTOR
1022 Patriots Way, Quakertown, PA 18951
- JAMES V. KELLER..... GRAND CHAPLAIN
901 Russell Street, York, PA 17402
- GARY R. HALLOCK..... GRAND GUARDIAN
164 Albert Boulevard, Winfield, PA 17889
- GRAND HERALD
- MICHAEL D. BETTS..... GRAND LODGE ATTORNEY
887 West Bristol Road, Warminster, PA 18974
- PAUL L. MILLER..... GRAND MUSICIAN EMERITUS
1105 Stinson Drive, Leesport, PA 19533

OFFICERS OF REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

- KATHY E. BARBER..... PRESIDENT
5503 Buffalo Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844 570-966-1562 kbarber72@yahoo.com
- ANNA L. SMITH..... VICE PRESIDENT
203 South Academy Street, Boalsburg, PA 16827 814-466-6348
- ELLA LEE TRULICK..... TREASURER
161 Stover Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823 814-383-4476 ellietrulick@aol.com
- SARAH M. BAER..... SECRETARY
115 North Centre Avenue, Leesport, PA 19533 610-916-1990 s.baer@baersservice.com

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

- YVONNE M. CALHOON..... GRAND PATRIARCH
105 Old Farm Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036 717-566-9213 r_calhoon@yahoo.com
- SANDRA L. HUCHEL..... GRAND SCRIBE
1809 White Oak Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 19608, shuchel@hotmail.com, 484-794-6781

Places to Go... People to See

JANUARY

15 / Unified Session Committee, Red Lion
Hotel 1:00PM (snow date January 22nd)

27-29 / "Light in Odd Spaces",
Meadville Orphanage

MARCH/APRIL

31-2 / Mid-Atlantic States Conclave,
Swedesboro, NJ +

+ 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!**

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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

25 YEARS

Edward R. Barth, #512
James S. Falzone, #512
Michael J. Peer, #541

30 YEARS

Don R. Dimmick, #55
Albert H. Kull, III, #148
Philip S. Muscarnero, #306

35 YEARS

Variety Lodge No. 37, Philadelphia
George W. Zonko, Jr., #192
Edward M. Connolly, #1030

40 YEARS

Robert Smedley, #306
Michael J. Smedley, #306



55 YEARS

Ronald E. Rudge, #523

60 YEARS

John C. Kerstetter, #551
Dean H. Oxenrider, #551
Eugene F. Shaffer, #551

70 YEARS

Warren E. Robinson, #270

75 YEARS

John C. Palmer, #447

135 YEARS

Salome Rebekah Lodge No. 30, York

175 YEARS

Paoli Lodge No. 290, Downingtown

UNIFIED MEMBERS HELP ORCHARD MANOR



Members Debbie and Ken Karr donated about 20 lap blankets to Orchard Manor residents for Christmas.

~ Earlene McMahon,
Unified #2 Secretary

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

BRADY LODGE NO. 116, MUNCY

Gail L. Hampe - initiated November 2nd

WALKER LODGE NO. 306, PHILADELPHIA

Meghan Solomon - transferred
November 15th

FOSTER LODGE NO. 333, REW

Mary A. Schultz - initiated December 6th
David M. Hughes
Jane M. Cole

WARREN LODGE NO. 339

Tammy Dussia - initiated December 6th

CLOVER LODGE NO. 348, AMBRIDGE

Ayla Soracco - initiated November 16th
Clay Mayernik

FREEPORT LODGE NO. 379

Bill Nelson - initiated November 16th
Kenny Klugh
Terry Stell
Ron Grove
Jan Anke Huggins

SMETHPORT LODGE NO. 389

Stephanie Keifer - initiated December 6th

VINCENT LODGE NO. 762, SPRING CITY

Bernice E. Trace - initiated November 8th
Darlene J. Matsinger
Martie J. Samarco
Sue Downes

EAST BRUNSWICK LODGE NO. 802, NEW RINGGOLD

Brad J. Troxell - initiated October 25th
Scott Linkhorst

SHILLINGTON LODGE NO. 1175

William L. Hain - initiated October 25th
Daniel V. DeCarlo

PHOEBE REBEKAH LODGE NO. 123, RIMERSBURG

Dale Barger - initiated November 7th
Makenzie Barger

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

Fraternal Greetings! I hope everyone had a blessed and relaxing holiday season and are ready to kick off 2023 with a bang! I do not write too many messages, unless I have something important to say (and I always have something important to say). The winter season is normally rough to plan out events because of the unpredictable weather. However, now is the time to be planning your spring events. There is one very important thing you can be doing during the lulls in January and February. This article comes from John Sonnek, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota:

“With the changing of the season coming upon us, I’d like you as members to sit down and think about your Lodge. I’d like you to really think about how it makes you feel. Does it make you excited to be there? Are you proud of it? I’d like you to really think about what parts of the lodge make you happy, and what parts get you down. As you think about it, what could we do to emphasize the good, and fix what makes you sad about your lodge.

I believe that the lodge should be a warm and inviting place for its members. If we can get a to a place where we truly enjoy being in our lodge with our brothers and sisters, it will be easier to invite new prospective members in to experience our order.

I know we’ve been trying to figure out how to get new members for years, maybe we need to start at the lodge level and identify what’s holding us back from asking our friends and communities to join with us. I still believe we have a great experience to share and we need to step up and spread the word!”

Thank you Grand Master and I think this is a great message. Our Lodges are going from bad, to dirty, to downright abandoned. Would you be embarrassed to have your parent/child/friend walk in to what ever your meeting place is and say “This is my Lodge.” I have seen a group who complain about how run down their Lodge room is, but they are the ones who are to be keeping it up. If you’ve heard it once, you’ve probably heard it 100 times – be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Even if you rent a space in a



church or other building, clean it up, make it “your home” for that twice a month meeting. Remember, the more effort you put in to that meeting, the more you certainly will get out of it.

Is your Lodge going to have a work party? Have some of the members bring in food and have a nice night socializing, eating and cleaning. Take a picture and send it into the magazine. Show us how well it worked out!

See you on the Road to Odd Fellowship in 2023.

Fraternally, Justin C. Bailey, PGM Grand Secretary

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SCRIBE:

Neil Thomas, PGP and current Grand Inside Sentinel, invited me to attend a luncheon that honors Veterans at the IOOF Middletown home on Friday November 11th and I promptly accepted. Neil does this every year and also presents the home with whatever funds and gifts that have been donated. Unfortunately, there was not much given to the home this year, despite Neils efforts.

For me, it was a very emotional event. My dad, Milford (Jake) Johnson who was an IOOF member of Alma Lodge and William F. Packer Encampment and a Navy Veteran from WWII never spoke about the horrors of war that he saw, only the positive things that happened like making friends. That was my Dad.

To see all the Veterans at the home, some with family members and some who had no one there, made me think about how lucky I am to have those people who gave so much of themselves and lucky that I could attend the event with Neil. We are very fortunate to have those among us who are not in homes across the country but still remember the horrors of war. We really need to support those veterans and also those currently serving to protect our country.

They honored 38 veterans. Not all were IOOF members but that was not the cause of the luncheon. The only IOOF member that Neil and I knew was Nevin Adams who seemed to enjoy the event. Each veteran was recognized whether he or

she was able to attend the luncheon or not. Those in attendance were given a certificate, a flower boutonniere, candy gift, and a lapel flag from the local state representative.

Neil was also recognized as a veteran during the ceremony. I was so very proud to be his escort.

Sandy Huchel



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND MASTER

Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the New Year. It has been quite the year so far for me. My travel schedule has been difficult to plan as when I get ready to make a visit something more pressing comes up. As you may be aware there is more to the Grand Master's agenda than visiting lodges. Member issues as well as lodge and association issues are part of the job as well. I find these other issues are currently of a more important concern and thus I have not made as many visits as I would have liked. As you read this article I am hoping that some of these more pressing matters are beginning to show some improvement. As I see it most issues can be repaired with a little compromise from each side. By working together we can do amazing things. Conversation is the start of compromise. If there is an issue that might not be working out get in touch with me. I am willing to make room in my schedule to listen to the issue and help however possible.

I am looking in to the potential to establish an educational school of instruction, that several lodges have been asking about. Could this be something that you or your lodge would be interested in? In order to get a school of

instruction going we need commitment from members and lodges. We will need a lodge to conduct the classes in and a commitment from the members to attend. As with the degree rally's the schools of instruction require attendants as well as instructors and other participants to help get the work done. If there is enough interest myself and the Grand Lodge members will endeavor to set something up in a particular district or even in a small group of lodges. I would want more than one lodge to be involved to entice the Grand Lodge members to travel for such an event.

By getting members up to speed on the workings of the different chairs associated with running a lodge meeting we can build a more active lodge. A more active lodge produces more members that are willing to go through the chairs. The more members passing through the chairs the better the meetings become. With the dwindling size of our lodges we see too many older members losing interest in running the meetings. By allowing the newer members the chance to progress through the chairs the same members are not needing to hold the same chairs year after year. How many lodges do we have where the Noble Grand or other chairs have been occupied by the same folks for

numerous years?

I would like to get a degree rally scheduled for the early spring in the western region. To do that and to get one in the east a little later perhaps in May requires much planning and even more participation from our membership. I will need a lodge available to accommodate a group of 50 or more. We would need a sponsoring lodge to open and close the meeting and candidates. I believe that the degrees performed live have so much more meaning than a DVD show. As with any large scale event planning is critical. So I am open for suggestions from the masses.

On another note as of this writing we would have been able to reinstitute Foster Lodge. With the tireless efforts of the Grand Secretary, Justin C. Bailey, new members were initiated into Smethport Lodge and then transferred to Foster Lodge, and elected and installed into their appropriate chairs. These new members will need a lot of assistance in getting up to speed. These are prime candidates for schools of instructions.

Wishing Health, Happiness and Prosperity for all in this new year.

In Friendship, Love and Truth;

J. Carl George, Grand Master

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Sisters and brothers,

Happy new year. I hope your holidays went well and you enjoyed your friends, family and fraternal brothers and sisters over the holidays. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE IOOF OF PENNSYLVANIA ON THEIR BICENTENNIAL!!!! IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH THINGS HAVE CHANGED OVER THE LAST 200 YEARS AND IN ODD FELLOWSHIP specifically. Now that we are all hunkered in for the winter pretty much, we need to concentrate on upcoming events. Hopefully we will get a rally scheduled this spring to bring new candidates in. Also, GRAND LODGE is looking into a river boat ride on the

Susquehanna to be in conjunction with sessions this year- stay tuned for further information on this event, tentative date is June 28th so mark your calendars for a fun packed evening. I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year and more importantly, let's make oddfellowship shine its light on the whole state and country to show people what we are truly about friendship, love and truth. Remember to send in pictures of your events for the magazine, I love seeing everybody active and hope to be in a lodge near you soon. Don't forget also in August our own brother John Cupp will be installed as sovereign grandmaster. There will be many events planned around the

western part of the state and it's been well over 50 years since Pennsylvania has had a sovereign grandmaster —so be involved and get your Lodge involved. And now a small tease for the new year please send me questions that you would like to have answered, maybe in a public forum. Or if you have some significant odd-fellowship tale or story, please contact me so we can talk about it. Again, please have a healthy and prosperous new year. Reach out to a brother or sister you haven't talk to you in a while maybe and see if they're OK or need anything like a friend to talk to or just to listen —as we all grow older, that is just as important as other things. In FLT, Bob Ruff, DGM

ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER



Here's the photo from Earl. On November 7th I travelled east to visit several lodges. The first stop was the Earl lodge. I was privileged to have with me Past Grand Master Dale Binkley and the Grand Warden Paul Lautenschlager who was behind the camera for this photo op. Thank you members of Earl Lodge for a great night of Odd Fellowship. GM

On November 8th, the Grand Lodge visited Boyertown Lodge No. 708 and initiated a class of four Sisters in to Vincent Lodge No. 762, Spring City. Thank you to Boyertown Lodge for hosting the evening! Those from Grand Lodge were GM George, GW Paul Lautenschlager, GS Justin Bailey, and GCo Frank Hilt.



On November 9th, GM George continued his "eastern tour" by visiting the Officers and Members of Harmony Lodge #86 in Tamaqua. Along with him were GW Paul Lautenschlager, GS Justin Bailey, GMa Michael Wallis, GCo Frank Hilt and GGu Gary Hallock. A delegation from Brady Lodge in Muncy also was in attendance. It was great to have them with us!

On November 10th, GM George finished his week-long trip by visiting the Members of Lititz Lodge #1050 and installing their officers. Lititz Lodge recently reorganized and they are getting great turnouts at their meetings again. Congratulations to their new officers and best of luck for a bright future!

MICHELLE HECKART TESTIMONIAL FROM JUDITH A. WERT, PPRA



CANTON NORTHEAST NO. 9

Canton Northeast # 9, Patriarchs Militant, of Honesdale, donated a bench from the Trex plastic program to Julia Ribauda nursing home in Lake Ariel PA .

pictured is Diane Schneider , Lt. Andrew Kilmer, Ensign Jessica Kilmer & Capt. Paul Lautenschlager

~ Photo by Dana Kilmer



THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR NEEDY



The members at Freedom Lodge 88, of Honesdale, provided dinners for ten families in our area. All the fixings for a complete dinner were collected, assembled at the lodge and delivered!

Freedom Lodge meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday in Honesdale. Join the Brotherhood!

WARREN LODGE HELPS IN CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



Warren Lodge #339 participated again this year in the Warren Christmas Walk and Parade. We set up our table in front of the Lodge and furnished hot chocolate and candy canes. Approximately 200 cups of hot chocolate were served with about the same number of candy canes. Conny Elston and her daughter Julieanne were the busy

Elves while Dan Swab, Shawn Estes and Lou Dussia manned the kitchen and kept the supply of hot chocolate coming.

LODGES PARTICIPATE IN WINTER EVENT

On Saturday, December 3rd, Harmony Lodge #86 and Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86, of Tamaqua, participated in the "Spirit of Christmas" weekend by attending the Open Air Market, sponsored by Tink's Antiques. The Lodges sold some of their new items, Harmony selling their lapel pins featuring the cemetery's historic Soldier's Monument and, and Lady Harmony selling their community cookbooks.

A nice evening was held and it was great publicity for the Lodges. Shown left to right is Justin Bailey, Nicole Inama and Michelle Wagner. Not pictured are Julie Stokes and Kate Bailey.



JANUARY OBITUARIES

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



W. Irwin Nelson
Newburg Lodge No. 562
Valley Encampment No. 34
September 4, 2022

Brother Walter I. Nelson, 90, of Newville, PA, was initiated into Conodoguinit Lodge #173, Newville, PA, on April 21, 1960, where he became a Past Grand on October 20, 1986. He then became a member of Newburg Lodge #562 through consolidation on June 21, 1988. At the time of the Lodge's consolidation, he was Conodoguinit Lodge's Noble Grand. He was initiated a Patriarch into Valley Encampment #34, Newburg, on February 28, 2010. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living member of his Lodge and Encampment and the last surviving member of Conodoguinit Lodge #173 still affiliated with the Order. He was also holding the position of Right Supporter to the Vice Grand of Newburg Lodge #562 as well as Financial Secretary of Valley Encampment.

He was a U.S. Army Korean War Veteran and a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Newville.

Surviving is his wife, the former Barbara Lehman, five children, 10 grand and step-grandchildren and 13 great and step-great-grandchildren.

Burial was held at the convenience of the family.



William Winkleblech
Charleroi Lodge No. 1030
October 13, 2022

Brother William "Wink" Winkleblech, 74, of Monongahela, PA, was initiated into Charleroi Lodge #1030 on September 15, 1994.

He was a U.S. Army Vietnam War Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Pamela Weld. Surviving is two sons, two stepsons and four grandchildren.

Burial was held in Highland Cemetery, California, PA.



James R. Fetter, Jr.
Brady Lodge No. 116
November 21, 2022

Brother James R. "Jim" Fetter, Jr., 81, of Williamsport, PA, was initiated into Brady Lodge #116, Muncy, PA, on August 26, 1968.

Surviving is his wife, Ophelia, three sons, nine grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held in Muncy Cemetery.

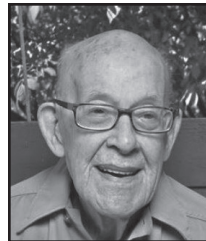


Robert A. Leedom
Variety Lodge No. 37
October 29, 2022

Brother Robert A. Leedom, 92, of Holland, PA, was initiated into Bridesburg Lodge #37 on June 11, 1973. He became a member of Bridesburg-Menorah Lodge #144, Philadelphia, through consolidation on January 19, 1985, and finally Variety Lodge #37, Philadelphia, through consolidation on January 14, 1988.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Joan Widmer, and one granddaughter. Surviving are two sons, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, with a third on the way.

Burial was held in William Penn Cemetery, Philadelphia.



Joseph R. Chapman
Freeport Lodge No. 379
December 4, 2022

Brother J. Rodney Chapman, 101, of Freeport, PA, was reinstated into Freeport Lodge #379 on January 19, 1968, where he became a Past Grand. At the time of his death, he was the Lodges oldest living member.

He was a U.S. Army WWII Veteran, being a P.O.W. and receiving the Purple Heart, and a member of Freeport United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary. Surviving is one son, one daughter, four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Freeport Cemetery.



Gary L. Shuman
Shillington Lodge No. 1175
December 8, 2022

Brother Gary L. Shuman, 66, of Centre Township, PA, was initiated into Oley Lodge #218, Reading, PA, on April 5, 1985. He became a member of Shillington Lodge #1175 on May 8, 1988, where he became a Past Grand on October 31, 1993.

He was a member of St. Michael's Church, Tilden Township.

Surviving is his wife, the former Laura Royle, his father, one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

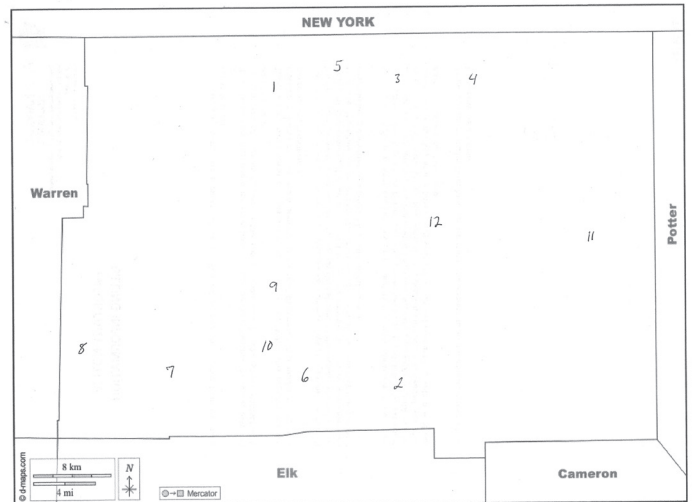
Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MCKEAN COUNTY

Interesting Facts:

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!



**Next Month – Lackawanna County.
 Get your pictures and articles in**

<p>MCKEAN COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bradford - Queen Esther Rebekah Lodge #118 - consolidated 1988 2 Clermont - Elizabeth Rebekah Lodge #132 - defunct 1890's 3 Duke Center - Lena Rebekah Lodge #171 - defunct 1920 4 Eldred - Lady Eldred Rebekah Lodge #526 - defunct 1995 5 Gilmore - Lady Mary Rebekah Lodge #224 - consolidated 1935 6 Hazelhurst - Marvin Valley Rebekah Lodge #421 - consolidated 1974 7 Kane - Clara Rebekah Lodge #48 - consolidated 1937 Kane - Lady Kane Rebekah Lodge #81 - consolidated 1981 Kane - Anzonnetta Rebekah Lodge #252 - consolidated 1937 8 Ludlow - Priscilla Rebekah Lodge #91 - defunct 1902 Ludlow - Pocahontas Rebekah Lodge #330 - defunct 1931 9 Mt. Alton - Isabel Rebekah Lodge #160 - defunct 1943 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Mt. Jewett - Mineola Rebekah Lodge #20 - defunct 1902 Mt. Jewett - Minneola Rebekah Lodge #413 - consolidated 1994 11 Port Allegany - Wisteria Rebekah Lodge #164 - defunct 2000 12 Smethport - Civil'a Rebekah Lodge #50 - defunct 1900 Smethport - Ideal Rebekah Lodge #63 - defunct 1988 Smethport - Maud Rebekah Lodge #175 - instituted 1889 <p>18 Rebekah Lodges with 1 active</p> <p>1st Rebekah Lodge - Civil'a Rebekah Lodge #50 around 1871</p> <p>Last Rebekah Lodge - Maud Rebekah Lodge #175, now of Smethport, formerly of Rew</p> <p>16 Odd Fellow Lodges</p>
---	---

ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND PATRIARCH



GP Yvonne Calhoon and staff official visit on Nov.10 to Earl R. Leiby Encampment #106, of Leesport. Attending was GMa Jeff Calhoon, GS Sandra Huchel, GT James Sellers, GIS Neil Thomas. GP Calhoon also assisted in installing the officers that night.

THE TREASURER'S TALES

JANUARY 2023

Winter is cold and snowy, the days are short and the night is long. In January 1928, winter in New Jersey followed this ancient pattern. The snow and cold sometimes overtake the people (and raccoons) and make life more difficult. This was true in 1928. New Years Day was on a Sunday. As we all know, months that begin on a Sunday contain a Friday the 13th.

On January 2, 1928, Stanford defeated Pittsburgh by a score of 7-6 tie in the Rose Bowl. On January 10, the Soviet Union exiled Leon Trotsky (and later murdered him in Mexico). On January 17th the first fully automatic film developing machine was patented. On January 31st Scotch Tape was introduced by the 3M Company. On January 5th Walter Mondale was born. On January 7th William Peter Blatty, author of *The Exorcist* was born. On January 12th Ruth Snyder became the first woman to die in the electric chair.

Because of the bad weather, the lodge called off its annual New Year's Day party and scheduled a Friday the 13th party instead. Vic was put in charge of the party and he and Alice were forced to call in their son-in-law, Barney, to help with the planning. Barney had assigned an essay on Friday the 13th to his 10th grade English classes, so he was getting background. The party had to have a theme about bad luck or superstition. Vic was a veterinarian and always had a number cats that people dropped off. He kept some in his barn and had some in a pen in his office, to offer to his clients. There would be four black cats roaming the lodge hall during the party. This would set the mood.

Barney had his students turn in their essays on the 11th, so he would have time to review the responses and incorporate some of the ideas into the party. The essays ran wild with imagination. There was a student who discussed numerology. Numerology is the belief in an occult, divine or mystical relationship among numbers and other events. The belief is that Friday the 13th is a day for bad luck. Examples of bad luck ran from stories about public events were available to read. One student noted that he was born exactly nine months after Friday the 13th and his parents were married seven months before he was born. The conclusions that student drew were unmistakable and his explanation a bit too plain. Generally the ideas from the

student essays were not helpful.

Barney searched some old furniture in his barn and found a broken mirror. His research also found that putting one's clothes on inside-out was bad luck. Spilled salt is considered bad luck. Walking under a ladder is considered bad luck, but that is understandable. Some consider certified mail to bring bad luck.

Barney thought that arranging ladders, mirrors and black cats would set the mood. It was hard to keep the black cats in one place, especially when they could smell the food. Poorly sealed windows allowed the odors of food to escape to the outdoors, where marauding raccoons could be attracted.

The Rebekahs decided they would wear witches costumes to the party. Vic suggested to Alice that it would seem more like Halloween dressed as a witch. He was told the decision had already been made. The chain of command is clearly seen here.

The party would replace dinner so the menu was the same as the cancelled New Year's Eve party; pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and apple pie. The cooking crew took off work for the afternoon. Barney was in school till 3:00 pm, so Vic and Clancey started the meal without him. Elizabeth and Alice were there helping and supervising. Elizabeth left her children with her sister Mary. When Barney arrived at 3:30 pm, everything was in the oven and the parking area was cleared. A bit of snow around the lodge hall showed signs of tracks from a small animal. The Odd Fellows did not share their wives desire to wear costumes and came in suits, as was the custom in 1928. Barney was put in charge of making punch. He was familiar with this task from his experience monitoring school dances. He was also familiar with the practice of many to "spike" the punch. Prohibition kept this practice to a minimum. One of the members was a traveling salesman named Jack Daniels. He had been to a sales meeting in Canada and brought back two fifths of Canadian Club. Somehow the whiskey managed to make it into the punch.

About half the members walk to lodge and the other half take cars or use horses. Grovers Mill had no streetcars that ran near the lodge hall. The garbage can sat at the back of the parking lot, where moon light would illuminate it. Because it was winter, the party took place after dark. As the members left their

vehicles to go into the lodge hall, some noted the shadow of a small creature on the garbage can. Melchizedek had learned that he needed to jump up and position his hind legs on the handle and push the lid with his front legs to pop the can open. This procedure worked over eighty percent of the time. Having been roused by the traffic, Melchizedek was forced to resort to trash cans. He noted the lodge can was nearly empty, so he waited to see what would be put in the can after the meeting. Several of the Rebekahs saw him clearly when they left their cars and were enamored. The exclamation was "how cute." A couple of the members and/or their wives, saved part of their dinner for Melchizedek. As they should have known by now, feeding a beggar does not stop him.

Most Odd Fellow festivities are organized around a meal. While eating the dinner, a band played. Vic deliberately engaged the cheapest and worst band in New Jersey. They were celebrating Friday the 13th and bad luck was the theme. A few members tried to dance to the music, but soon gave up. The music was so bad that Melchizedek did not leave his perch on the garbage can, the noise coming from the lodge hall hurt his ears. The party ended with a parade by all the members under the ladder. One of the ladies' dresses caught a corner of the ladder and brought it crashing down on the punch bowl. Half a dozen members were soaked with the remnants of the punch bowl. One of the younger Rebekahs was particularly soaked. When she arrived at home, her father, a strict minister, was highly agitated by the smell of liquor coming from her dress. She did not return to another Odd Fellow or Rebekah function for almost a year.

In addition to three or four handouts, Melchizedek waited for Barney to bring out the trash. The bones and fat from the pork roast were so attractive to Melchizedek that he tried to get in the garbage before Barney was done putting it in the can. Barney was amused, he put the bones on the ground, so they were easier to get.

Keep warm and Happy New Year!!

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

A SUCCESSFUL INITIATION HELD IN FREEPORT

A special thank you goes out to the members of Clover Lodge #348, of Ambridge, for their willingness to travel to another Lodge to help initiate new members. Freeport Lodge #379 is another struggling Lodge in our jurisdiction. A lack of active members to conduct meetings has hindered their ability to get new members. Freeport had several interested individuals that were just waiting to join.

Unfortunately, their lack of meetings due to quorum issues held back the new member opportunities.

Clover Lodge #348 had 2 new prospects and were preparing to perform the initiatory degree live at a regular Lodge meeting. The District Deputy Grand Master, Dave Carlson, being apprised of the situation discussed the possibility of a joint initiation. Through the work of both Lodges and the use of the beautiful lodge hall at Freeport, 7 new members were initiated. 5 new members into Freeport Lodge and 2 new members into Clover Lodge. A



total of 19 people were in attendance for a great night of Odd Fellowship. This is what the Odd Fellows stands for - to join together for mutual counsel and to assist our fraternal brothers and sisters.

A special thank you to the associate members of Freeport Lodge for their help in getting these 2 Lodges together and the efforts

put forth for the betterment of the Odd Fellows. Thank you associate member DGM Robert B. Ruff and a very special thanks to associate member JrPGM Shirley J. Whitlinger

particularly in all that you have done and continue to do in helping Freeport Lodge.

INITIATORY DEGREE HELD AT HENRY DISSTON LODGE NO 8



On November 7, 2022 Henry Disston Lodge No. 8, of Philadelphia, held the Initiatory Degree and initiated three new members into the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) as members in the Initiatory Degree. The degree work was performed by Past District Deputy Grand Master Bob Smedley and District Deputy Grand Master Mike Serverson (both members of Henry Disston Lodge) and assisted by lodge staff members: Tom Kutchner, John Matthews, Paul Crossley, Dave Cliggett and Bill O'Hara. Pictured are the three new members with some staff members.

Pictured above are the three new members in white regalia (in center left to right); Joseph Fitzgerald; Meghan Solomon and Larry Weiss. Both Joseph Fitzgerald and Meghan Solomon are new members of Henry Disston Lodge and Larry Weiss is now a new member of Variety Lodge No. 37.

Below are the members in attendance noting the attendance of Brother Ed Kanfer (lower right) of Variety Lodge No. 37 who introduced candidate Weiss to Disston Lodge for initiation at the meeting.



After the degree work, Noble Grand turned the meeting over to District Deputy Grand Master Mike Serverson who then installed the members of Henry Disston Lodge into office positions for the current term. A good time of camaraderie was had by all at this rather long Henry Disston Lodge meeting.

In FL&T, Bob Smedley

Periodicals

NOVEMBER DONATIONS

VISUAL ASSISTANCE

2	Unified	25.00
R30	Salome	<u>25.00</u>
		50.00

VISUAL RESEARCH

2	Unified	25.00
---	---------	-------

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

2	Unified	50.00
---	---------	-------

ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE

R30	Salome	25.00
-----	--------	-------

PA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

1004	Hampton	50.00
R30	Salome	<u>25.00</u>
		75.00

PA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2	Unified	50.00
---	---------	-------

FREEDOM LODGE 88 HONORS VETERANS

“Thank You” At our Lodge those are very simple words that have a powerful meaning! We cannot honor our veterans enough for their services. So, to all veterans, Thank You!

