

April 28, 1927

Walter H. McIlroy  
Special Administrator  
Ottumwa, Iowa

Dear Sir:                    In re: Zachariah Taylor Estate

Your letter of April 26th addressed to Mr. Chas. H. Davis, of Ottumwa, has been referred to me for reply.

In regard to your questions about a death fund in the Masonic organization, I will say: The United Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Iowa, of which I am Grand Master, provides in its laws for a relief and burial fund, varying in amount from \$125.00 to \$200.00, according to length of membership. The law governing this fund also specifically provides who shall be the beneficiaries and if none of those named in the law are found within one year, the lodge of which the deceased was a member shall be entitled to the fund.

It also provides that the right of any of the named beneficiaries may be impaired by the wilful neglect or flagrant abandonment of deceased while living.

And now since the only legal beneficiaries are specifically named in the law, I am of the opinion that this fund can at no time become a part of the estate of the deceased member, and since it is not a part of the estate of the deceased, the administrator of such an estate would have no claim upon the relief and burial fund of our Grand Lodge.

Golden Star Lodge No. 4, of Ottumwa, has filed in this office a claim for this fund under the abandonment clause. This claim, as yet, has not been allowed.

I would advise that you secure a copy of our 1922 Code and read Chapter VI containing our burial and relief law, and if after so reading you are of the opinion that you as administrator have any claim upon the fund due on account of the death of Bro. Zachariah Taylor, you will please make formal demand upon this office for the same.

Yours truly,

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GRAND MASTER.