

Abstracts from the proceedings of the Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Iowa and jurisdictions.

It is our purpose to give as much space as possible to each annual communication and to record the most important transactions of this Grand Body.

FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, July 10, 11, 12, 1888.

BRO. GEO. H. CLEGGETT, Des Moines, Grand Master.
BRO. J. E. GILLAM, Keokuk, Grand Secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. for Iowa and its jurisdiction met in its First Annual Communication, at 10 o'clock, A. M. in the Hall of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17, and was opened in ample form by Grand Master, Geo. H. Cleggett. The roll call showed all officers present and in their respective stations. The committee on credentials reported 16 of the 20 lodges properly represented. In his annual address Grand Master Cleggett congratulated the craft on the feeling of harmony and contentment that had existed during the year and said; "the past year has been a quiet one. Since the Union, there has been nothing to cause any disturbance, it seems as if the brethren had lost all the old vim and laid away their weapons of war, washed off the war paint and settled down to peace and quietude."

In regard to the standing of members who had belonged to African and Hiram Grand Lodges, and who had left one side or the other, and both sides claiming them, I have replied to all, "that we cannot go behind the returns; that we must take them as we find them; that African and Hiram are of the past and all

the differences were settled in the convention." He authorized Bro. A. H. Myrick to lay the corner stone of St. Peter's A. M. E. Church at Minneapolis, April 23, 1888. The address covers but five pages of the proceedings.

The Grand Secretary reported receipts of \$204.75, and disbursements of \$162.45, leaving a balance of \$42.30.

Three lodges were reported defunct and surrendered their warrants: Clark Lodge No. 19, at Davenport; Garfield Lodge No. 7, at Chariton, and Eastern Star Lodge No. 11, at Marshalltown.

J. K. Hilyard, of St. Paul, Minn. was elected Grand Master, and J. E. Gillam of Keokuk, re-elected Grand Secretary. Des Moines was selected as the place for holding the next annual communication.

The printed proceedings contains a cut of Grand Master-elect J. K. Hilyard, the Constitution and By-laws of the Grand Lodge, and covers 57 pages of large and fine print.

SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA, July 9, 10, 11, 1889.

BRO. J. K. HILYARD, St. Paul, Minn., Grand Master.
BRO. J. E. GILLAM, Keokuk, Grand Secretary.

The second annual communication of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa was held in the Hall of North Star Lodge No. 15, and was opened in ample form by the Grand Master.

It was customary in the early days for the Grand Master to first open a lodge of Master Masons, and after ascertaining if a constitutional number of lodges were duly represented, to then declare the Grand Lodge open and ready for business. In making these abstracts, however, we shall use the above state-

ment.

Grand Master Hilyard's annual address was very short, covering but three pages, but is interesting for the sentiment expressed and recommendations made. under the head of Recommendations, he said, "I would recommend that this Grand Lodge establish a library and a school of instruction; also that our United Grand Lodge be incorporated as soon as possible. I would further recommend the establishment of a Masonic Relief Society and of a more extended system of Grand Lodge Representation, and that the Grand Secretary spread them on the record of our proceedings. We have added a number of exchanges to our list this year. There are very few Grand Lodges that we do not exchange with and I hope the next Grand Master will get the balance. There is one other thing I will call your attention to and that is uniformity of work in our jurisdiction. This is a matter of great importance and I hope some action will be taken on it at this session."

He reported the death of Past Grand Master Lewis Hayden of Boston, Mass., who was one of the most eminent colored Masons of his day.

The only recommendations acted upon was the appointment of a Committee on Uniformity of Work, consisting of Brothers E. W. Vaughn, M. N. Bell and J. D. Reeler.

Grand Master Hilyard was the only non-resident of Iowa to ever be elected Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge. He was a member of Pioneer Lodge No. 12, of St. Paul, Minn. at that

time, under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa. The Committee on Credentials reported 16 lodges represented.

The suspension of Bro. J. S. Martin, by Sims Lodge No. 16, for disobeying a summons, was referred back to the lodge for a new trial.

An amendment to the Constitution was adopted changing the time of holding the annual session from the second Tuesday in July to the third Tuesday in August.

On motion of Bro. Alex. Clark, Bro. S. Fox was unanimously elected to be "Superintendent of Courts" (Heroines of Jericho) and to use his influence to bring about a union of the Courts. Such acting would meet with strong opposition in the Grand Lodge of to-day.

The Grand Secretary who had handled all the funds reported collections of \$190.60 and disbursements of \$159.65. Balance on hand \$32.05. His expence account of \$15.00 was criticised and reduced to \$12.00.

Bro. J. E. Gillam of Keokuk, was elected Grand Master, and Bro. Geo. ^{H.} Cleggett of Des Moines, Grand Secretary. Oskaloosa was selected for the next place of meeting.

The proceedings contains 43 pages, of which 10 are devoted to the report of the C. C. F. C.

THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

OSKALOOSA, IOWA, August 19, 20, 21, 1890.

BRO. J. E. GILLAM, Grand Master.
BRO. G. H. CLEGGETT, Grand Secretary.

According to the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W.

United Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. for Iowa and jurisdiction convened in the Hall of Sims Lodge No. 16, in the city of Oskaloosa, August 19, 1890, at 10 o'clock, A. M. A constitutional number of lodges being represented, Grand Master J. E. Gillam, opened the Grand Lodge in ample form and appointed the usual committees.

At the afternoon session the Grand Master delivered his annual address. It covers only 5 pages, but shows he had been actively engaged in the administration of his duties. He issued a dispensation for the formation of one new lodge at Roslyn, state of Washington, and deputed P. ^{D.} G. M. Bro. J. E. Shep- person, a ~~former~~ member of King Solomon Lodge No. 10, at Cleveland, Iowa, to do the work. It was granted a warrant under the name of Cascade Lodge No. 19, but through some misunderstanding it did not receive the warrant, ^{and} ~~but~~ was rewarranted as No. 23, in 1897. Through the Grand Master's efforts the two lodges at Keokuk, York No. 1 and Star No. 5, were consolidated under the name and number of Union Lodge No. 1.

Sims Lodge No. 16, was granted permission to change its name to ^{Mable} ~~Cedar~~ Grove Lodge No. 16.

The Grand Master appointed a Committee on Masonic Relief consisting of Brothers J. H. Shepard, A. A. Bland, J. D. Reeler, E. C. Thomas and J. H. Breeden. The committee after due consideration made the following report:

First-That an organization be founded to be known as the Masonic Mutual Benefit Society for the State of Iowa and its jurisdiction.

Second-That the officers consist of President, Vice President and Secretary to be elected annually by the members of the

association.

Third-That a committee to consist of Bros. A. J. Harris, A. A. Bland and J. E. Gillam be appointed to frame a constitution and by-laws to be presented to the above association at our next Grand Lodge Session.

Fourth-That this committee be continued.

Fifth-That the committee be zealous and be prepared to make a full report at the next meeting.

Sixth-That the proceedings of this committee be printed in this years minutes.

Bro. G. H. Cleggett offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved: That we the members of the United Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa, feeling highly honored by the appointment of our honored Brother and Past Grand Master, Alexander Clark, of Muscatine, as Minister Resident and Cousul General to Liberia, Africa, hereby tender our best wishes, hoping that he may have a plessent and safe journey. We pray that his health may be preserved and he may be permitted to serve out his full term and return to us in safety. But it was not to be. His death occurred May 18, 1891.

Grand Secretary's report: Receipts \$224.45; Disbursements \$133.71; Balance on hand \$90.74.

Brother J. E. Gillam re-elected Grand Master.

Brother A. A. Bland elected Grand Secretary.

Keokuk was chosen as the next place of meeting.

Proceeding 57 pages.

FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, IOWA, August 18, 19, 20, 1891.

BRO. J. E. GILLAM, M. W. Grand Master.
BRO. A. A. BLAND, R. W. Grand Secretary.

At 10 A. M. Tuesday Aug. 18, 1891, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa and jurisdiction was opened in ample form in the Hall of Union Lodge No. 1, at Keokuk, Iowa by M. W. Grand Master J. E. Gillam.

Following the usual routine business the Grand Master read his annual address.

He announced the death of Past Grand Master J. K. Hilyard Sr., which occurred at Philadelphia, Pa., April 21, 1891, and the death of Past Grand Master Alexander Clark, at Monrovia, Liberia, May 29, 1891. A new lodge was organized at Davenport, Hiram U. D. Reported King Solomon Lodge No. 10, at Cleveland defunct. Had received word from the District Deputy, J. L. Neal, of Minnesota, that the three lodges in Minnesota were considering the surrendering of their warrants to join in the organization of a Grand Lodge for the State of Minnesota. Their action received the approval of the Grand Lodge.

The committee appointed at the last session to draft a Constitution and By-Laws to govern the Masonic Benefit Association, reported its work and same was adopted. The principal features of the Association are contained in Article V, Section 1 and 2, which reads as follows:

Section 1. All Master Masons in good standing, who are members in any Lodge within this jurisdiction, shall be assessed twenty-five cents as a membership fee. At the death of a

member of the Association each member shall pay the sum of fifty cents; any member failing to pay his dues to the Association for more than sixty days forfeits all claims from the Association. This section is not to be construed to apply to such members as were sick at the time the assessment was levied.

Section 2. Sixty days after the death of a member, the Board of Directors will pay to the heirs of the deceased the sum of forty cents per capita on the entire membership of the Association, ten cents per capita to be retained in the contingent fund, from which the expenses of this Association shall be paid.

Upon motion, the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, and, according to its provisions, the Grand Lodge proceeded to elect Directors as follows: A. J. Harris, S. Fox, J. H. Shepard, Jno. D. Reeler, W. H. Scott, E. C. Thomas, A. A. Bland. Brothers Bland, Thomas, Harris and Fox, two years each; Brothers Shepard, Reeler and Scott, one year each.

The Directors elected the following officers: A. A. Bland, President, Keokuk, Iowa; E. C. Thomas, Vice-President, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; A. J. Harris, Secretary, Keokuk, Iowa; J. H. Shepard, Treasurer, Des Moines, Iowa.

Public Memorial Services were held in the A. M. E. Church in honor of J. K. Hilyard and Alexander Clark. The Superintendent of Courts reported the union of the two bodies under the name of

8.

the Grand Court of Iowa, H. of F.

Grand Secretary reports: Receipts \$264.00; Disbursements \$141.65; Balance \$122.65. The Grand Treasurer's report tallies. This is the first year the Grand Treasure had been in possession of the funds.

Des Moines, the guest of North Star Lodge No. 2, was selected as the next place of meeting. Bro. J. E. Gillam, re-elected Grand Master, Bro. J. D. Reeler, Des Moines Grand Secretary. 54 pages of proceedings.

FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA, August 16, 17, 18, 1892.

BRO. J. E. GILLAM, Grand Master.

BRO. J. D. REELER, Grand Secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of North Star Lodge No. 2, in Des Moines, and was opened in ample form by Grand Master J. E. Gillam. All the Grand Officers and most of the permanent members were present. Thirteen lodges were represented.

After appointing the committees, the Grand Master read his annual address. He reported the craft in fairly good condition. One new lodge organized at Clinton, Madison, U. D. Reported the death of P. D. G. M. Bro. Wm. A. Dove of Union Lodge No. 1, at Keokuk, on April 11, 1892. Reported the surrender of its warrant by North Star Lodge No. 15, at Des Moines.

He attended the funeral of Past Grand Master Alexander Clark, at Muscatine on Feb. 16, 1892, and in reporting the occasion he

made the following statements: "In the early part of February last I received a letter from Rev. R. Holley informing me that the remains of Brother Clark had arrived in the states; also telling me to hold myself in readiness and he would dispatch when the body arrived in Muscatine. On the 13th I received a telegram informing me that I would be expected in Muscatine the 16th. I was accompanied by Past Grand Master A. A. Bland, A. J. Harris, and others. On arriving at Muscatine I was met by members of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17 of which deceased was a member. With the assistance of Deputy Grand Master Banks, and others of our jurisdiction, also my much esteemed Brother Jones, Grand Treasurer, and representative of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, who brought with him a beautiful floral tribute offered by the Grand Lodge of Missouri as a token of respect to the distinguished dead. I assembled the craft in a hall prepared for the occasion, opened the Grand Lodge in form and marched to the church, and after the ceremony of the church we escorted the remains of our Past Grand Master to the grave, where he was buried with Masonic honors. With sad hearts we committed his body to its narrow home, there to quietly slumber until the last day. "Peace to his ashes."

Presented an invitation from Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois extending to Iowa Masons the use and courtesies of special headquarters to be maintained in Chicago by the Illinois Grand Lodge during the World's Fair in 1893. It also contained a suggestion for holding a general Masonic Council in Chicago at some time during the World's Fair. This suggestion was approved and

and the following delegates appointed to represent Iowa at the meeting: M. W. A. A. Blend, R. W. A. A. Pierce, M. W. Geo. H. Cleggett and M. W. J. D. Reeler.

Amendments to the constitution were adopted to change the time of holding the annual communication from the third Tuesday in August back to the second Tuesday in July; to provide for a Board of Trustees, and to bond the Grand Treasurer.

Des Moines was selected as the next place of meeting. *Bro John D. Reeler elected Grand Master, Bro Miles H. Bell elected Grand Secretary*

SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DAVENPORT, IOWA, July 11, 12, 13, 1893.

BRO. J. D. REELER, Grand Master.

BRO. GEO. H. CLEGGETT, Acting Grand Secretary

According to the provisions of the constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge for Iowa and jurisdiction convened in the Hall of Hiram Lodge, No. 19 in the city of Davenport at 10 A. M. Tuesday, July 11, 1893, and was opened in ample form by the Grand Master.

All the elective officers were present except Grand Secretary, Miles H. Bell, who was sick and unable to attend. Bro. Geo. H. Cleggett was appointed to act as Grand Secretary during the session. The appointment of committees, the report of the Committee on Credentials and Committee on Rules occupied the morning session. Bro. J. M. Busby, of Holin, D. D. G. M. of Illinois was admitted and received with honors.

At the afternoon session, Grand Master Reeler read his annual address. It is short, but contains several matters of importance to the craft. Had written over 500 letters. One new

lodge, Eureka U. D. at Marshalltown. Recommended that a fund be created for the burial of Past Grand Masters; that a digest or code of laws be prepared to govern the Grand and Subordinate Lodges; that the newly organized Masonic Benefit Association be dissolved, and whatever money remains, be placed in a sinking fund for the funeral expenses of deceased Grand Masters. In regard to the condition of the association, he said, "In 1891 the organization of the M. W. B. A. was perfected. Fortunately but few deaths have occurred since its organization, but what have occurred, I regret to say, no death benefits have been paid to their heirs. In view of this condition of affairs, and the withdrawal of the compulsory clause in the constitution, and further that a majority of the directors have withdrawn, I recommend that the M. W. B. A. be dissolved."

It was done and the balance of \$7.25, left in the Treasury turned into a sinking fund. Ten per cent of the gross receipts of the Grand Lodge were to be turned into this sinking fund. Yet the constitution as printed in this year's proceeding provided: "Every lodge shall pay for each member in good standing annually 75 cents and 25 cents of the annual tax shall go to the Widows and Orphans Benefit Fund." There is however, no record that either of these provisions were ever put in force or any benefits paid.

It ordered that 25 cents be collected from each member to reimburse the widow of Past Grand Master J. K. Hilyard for his funeral expenses.

The Committee on Dispensations and Charters made this report: "That the Eureka Lodge, U. D. located at Marshalltown be

granted a warrant at cost, and Madison Lodge of Clinton, be allowed to change its name to Clinton Lodge No. 20, and Eureka take No. 21." We have been informed by Bro. Geo. L. Suter, who was Worshipful Master of Eureka at the time, that under his protest the numbers of these two lodges were reversed, but the Grand Secretary failed to record the change, and while the warrants still carry the original numbers they have been listed in the roster of lodges as Eureka No. 20 and Clinton No. 21, since 1894.

A. H. Myriek, W. M. of Anchor Lodge No. 14, at Minneapolis, was expelled from Masonry for misappropriating funds of the Lodge.

The following resolutions by Bro. E. T. Banks, was approved: Resolved: That any member of a subordinate lodge under this jurisdiction, who is suspended for non-payment of dues and refuses or fails to pay the arrears to his lodge for one year shall be deemed guilty of un-masonic conduct and upon conviction thereof shall be expelled from such lodge." There is no record in the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge that this resolution was ever enforced, nor does it appear in any of the printed constitutions and by-laws of the Grand Lodge.

A resolution to prohibit electionering for office was laid on the table.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported that it was unable to complete its work and asked to be continued during the recess of the Grand Lodge and report at the next session. It was so ordered.

The deficiencies found in the accounts of Past Grand Treasurer, D. W. Anderson, and Present Grand Treasurer, J. E. Gillam, were satisfactorily adjusted and the amounts due the Grand Lodge promptly paid.

The Finance Committee reported a balance on hand after all claims allowed of \$126.36.

Bro. J. D. Reeler re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. G. H. Cleggett, elected Grand Secretary.

Burlington was selected as the next place of meeting.

SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

BURLINGTON, July, 10, 11, 12, 1894.

BRO. J. D. REELER, Grand Master.

BRO. G. H. CLEGGETT, Grand Secretary.

According to the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa and jurisdiction convened in the Hall of Sumner Lodge No. 2, in the city of Burlington, at 10 A. M. Tuesday, July 10, 1894.

After the usual formalities and there being a constitutional number of lodges represented the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by the Grand Master^{Bro} J. D. Reeler.

At the afternoon session the Grand Master read his annual address. Hard times and unemployment had seriously affected the craft, yet he was not discouraged. He authorized Deputy Grand Master James Woodfork to organize a lodge at West Superior, Wis., to be known as James Woodfork Lodge U. D. Bro. H. H. White was appointed Worshipful Master of the new lodge, but due to his un-masonic conduct and disregard of Masonic law, the Grand Master

authorized the Deputy to remove him from office. After his removal the lodge suspended him. The Grand Lodge sustained the Grand Master in his authority to remove an officer of a U. D. Lodge, but declared the suspension by the lodge to be unconstitutional and void.

Deputy Grand Master Woodfork made an extended report detailing the actions of Bro. White, which led to his removal as Worshipful Master.

The Grand Master recommended the appointment each year of a committee on printing whose duty it was to receive all matter to be printed from the Grand Secretary and supervise the printing of the same.

Another recommendation which was approved by the Grand Lodge, was for the appointment of a statistician. It was never carried out, although in making the recommendation, the Grand Master said, "I believe that the Grand Lodge should have a place to put its records from time to time, and all the matters of a Masonic nature that will tend to make history. At present we have no records or other documents that is the property of the Grand Lodge. I, therefore, recommend the appointment of a statistician whose duty shall be to collect as correctly as possible the history of this Grand Lodge with data as to the deaths in the jurisdiction, and all documents in general that shall in any way help to make history."

All lodges named after living men were ordered to change their names.

The Iowa State Bystander was made the official organ of the Grand Lodge in place of the Des Moines Avalanche.

A resolution to add one more day (either Monday or Friday) to the Grand Lodge session for holding a school of instruction was defeated.

A committee was appointed to report at the next session a workable plan of a Widows and Orphans Relief and Benefit Fund. Instructors in each of the three degrees were appointed to hold a school of instruction at the next session.

A committee was appointed to ascertain the cost of Grand Lodge paraphernalia.

The warrant of King Salomon Lodge No. 10, was called in.

The Grand Lodge enjoyed a visit from a distinguished white Mason in the person of Rev. Bro. Henry Hartly, Past Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Mexico to the Grand Lodge of Georgia, and member of the Grand Lodge of England, Scotland and Eovia Scotia, who delivered an interesting and instructive address, which he closed with these encouraging words: "But most worthy Sir and Brother, to the minds even of the obtuse it is axiomatic, that the position of what is termed Colored Masonry is tenable, dignified, and honorable; is justified and historic. In conclusion, permit me, standing in your midst, not only as the Widow's Son, but as a Priest of the Holy Catholic Church, to invoke the choicest blessings of the Almighty Parent of Good on your august and Most Worshipful Body."

Memorial services were held at the A. M. E. Church on Tuesday evening in memory of Past Deputy Grand Master Alford J.

Harris and five other of their brethren.

The Finance Committee reported a balance of \$91.00 in the General Fund and \$25.28 in the Sinking Fund.

Bro. J. D. Reeler re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. G. H. Cleggett re-elected Grand Secretary.

Keokuk was selected as the next place of meeting.

Note--It was at this session that the compiler of this history had, for the first time, the pleasure of setting in this Grand Lodge. I was there as the Senior Warden of Maple Grove Lodge No. 16, of Oskaloosa, I received as I then thought and still so regard, very flattering recognition for a novice, having served as Grand Register and on three committees, Credentials, Appeals, ^{and} Grievances, and Accounts. My name, however, does not appear as a representative of Maple Grove Lodge in the printed report of the Committee on Credentials. Of the entire membership present at that session, but four besides myself are still living. The then Grand Master, Bro. J. D. Reeler, who for the past 14 years has been Grand Treasurer and only retired in 1930, on account of ill health; Bro. I. L. Brown, Past Grand Master; Bro. W. D. Crawford, Past Grand Treasurer and Bro. Geo. L. Suter, Past Grand Secretary.

Since writing the above Bro Reeler has
EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, July 9, 10, 11, 1895.

BRO. J. D. REELER, Grand Master.

BRO. G. H. CLEGGETT, Grand Secretary.

According to the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in the Hall of Union Lodge No. 1, in the City of Keokuk, Iowa, Tuesday July 9, 1895, at 10 o'clock A. M. A constitutional number of lodges being repre-

past, April 7, 1931.

sented, the Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, appointed his Committees and at the afternoon session read his Annual Address. He reported some of the lodges as "active and progressive", while others were "lagging in the work because of weakness and adverse circumstances." He refused to recommend the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, which had been organized on August 16, 1894, because of certain irregularities on the part of the members of Pioneer Lodge No. 12, in St. Paul.

Had received official notice that the Grand Lodge of Ohio had refused recognition to the newly organized Grand Lodge of Kentucky. He had been unable "for good reasons" to select a Statistician, but hoped his successor would do so. He suggested that the Master of each lodge select some one in the lodge to prepare a history of their lodge and send a copy to the Statistician.

A warrant was issued to Enterprise Lodge No. 22 at West Superior, Wis. A few minor amendments to the laws were adopted. An invitation to attend a picnic at Rand Park, Tuesday afternoon was accepted, and one from Margaret Ann Court to attend a Silver Reception, Wednesday evening.

The appeal of P. G. S. Bro. M. N. Bell from suspension by North Star Lodge, was referred back to the lodge for a new trial.

The Committee on Accounts reported a deficit of \$8.31 after all bills were allowed.

Bro. A. A. Bland, elected Grand Master.

Bro. G. H. Cleggett re-elected Grand Secretary.

Muchakinock was selected as the next place of meeting.

NINTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

MUCHAKINOCK, IOWA, July 14, 15, 16, 1896.

BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Master.

BRO. G. H. CLEGGETT, Grand Secretary.

The town of Muchakinoock, a name derived from the expression, "How Much I Can Knock," can not now be found on the present maps of Iowa. At the time it entertained the Grand Lodge it was a well built flourishing coal mining town situated five miles south of Oskaloosa, in Mahaska County. It was not incorporated, but was owned by the Consolidation Coal Company of Illinois, a subsidiary of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. It housed a population of about 400 families and gave employment to nearly 1000 miners, a majority of ^{whom} were Negroes. It had comfortable school buildings where colored teachers were employed; substantially built church which were always ably pastored and several secret and social organizations. At the time it entertained the Grand Lodge Cedar Grove Lodge was the second in membership in the jurisdiction.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in its Ninth Annual Communication in the Hall of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18, at Muchakinoock on Tuesday, July 14, 1896, at 10 o'clock A. M. A roll call of lodges showed a constitutional number represented and Grand Master Bland opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form.

At the afternoon session, the Grand Master read his Annual Address. It is evident that the address as printed in the Proceedings is some what ^{deputed} ~~deputed~~, as the Committee on Grand Master's Address in its report recommended that certain portions of the

address "be stricken out."

The Grand Master had failed in an effort to raise enough money to print the 1895 proceedings. He had asked ~~to permit~~ for a voluntary contribution from each lodge, but only a few responded. This was the first time Iowa had failed to print her proceeding. Provision was made, however, at this session to print the proceedings of 1895 and 1896 and bind them in one volume. This was done.

Most of the time of Wednesday's session was taken up in a discussion of the report of the Committee on Credentials on which the Committee itself was divided. The principal argument was over a motion that A. G. Clark be given a vote in this Grand Lodge as a representative of Maple Grove Lodge No. 16, at Oskaloosa. "Motion lost." The motion was made after the committee had reported unfavorable to Bro. Clark. Bro. Clark was a past Senior Warden of Maple Grove Lodge No. 16. He had offered as his credentials the proxy of Bro. John Williams, the then Senior Warden of that Lodge. His right to be seated as a representative of his lodge was based on Article V, Section I of the Constitution, which had been the law ever since the organization, was the law then and was until changed ^{at the 1918 Grand Lodge} in the Code of 1922. It reads as follows:

Section I. The Master and Wardens, when unable to attend the Communication of the Grand Lodge, shall nominate and send their representatives who must be a member of some lodge in this jurisdiction and who must have served in the same or higher office, with their jewels, to represent them in the Grand Lodge- the Master sending a Past Master and the Wardens, Past Wardens or Past

Masters, as their representatives.

There was ^{no} ~~in~~ question as to the regularity of Bro. Clark's Credentials.

The Grand Secretary and C. C. F. C. were instructed to recognize the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

The election of officers in Maple Grove Lodge over which a complaint had been filed was referred back to the lodge for a new election.

An enjoyable feature of the session was the public address delivered from the band stand by Past Master, Dr. R. ^{A.} Brown, of Oskaloosa.

Bro. A. A. Bland re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. W. H. London elected Grand Secretary.

Marshalltown was selected as the next place of meeting.

TEETH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

MARSHALLTOWN, July 13, 14, 15, 1897.

BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Master.

BRO. W. H. LONDON, Grand Secretary.

Obedient to the provision of the Constitution the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in the Hall of Eureka Lodge No. 20 at 10 o'clock A. M. Tuesday, July 13, 1897.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented, Grand Master A. A. Bland opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his Committees.

At the afternoon session a hearty welcome was extended to the members of the Grand Lodge on behalf of Eureka Lodge, by Bro. Herbert Wright which was happily responded to by P. G. M. Bro. J. D.

Reeler. The Grand Master then read his Annual Address. It was short and contained but little for the body to work on. He asked that Cascade Lodge U. D. at Roslyn, Wash., be granted a warrant which was done and numbered 25. The Grand Lodge seemed to have ^{had} plenty of time on its hands as a recess of 10 or 15 minutes was taken at every session.

After debating for two days a resolution by Bro. ~~L. C. Ellis~~ ^{L. C. Willis} to set aside an amount sufficient to pay for printing the proceeding, and pro-rate the balance among the traveling expenses of Grand Officers; the resolution was indefinitely postponed.

Past Grand Master Reeler presented a comprehensive plan for an Incorporative Benefit Association, which after a general discussion was endorsed by the Grand Lodge. A board of 18 directors was elected, who elected the following officers: Bro. James Washington, President; Bro. John D. Reeler, Vice President; Bro. J. H. Shepard, Treasurer and Bro. A. A. Bland, Secretary. It provided for a membership fee of \$2.00 for the first year and \$1.00 thereafter. Annual dues of \$1.00 payable in quarterly installment of 25 cents a quarter. Bros. Banks, Cleggett and Shepard were appointed to ^{have} the Association incorporated. It was to meet during the session of the Grand Lodge and its transactions printed in the Proceedings.

Bro. James Washington was elected Grand Master.

Bro. A. A. Bland was elected Grand Secretary.

Des Moines was selected as the next place of meeting.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, July 12, 13, 14, 1898.

BRO. JAMES WASHINGTON, Grand Master.
 BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Secretary.

In compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in its Eleventh Annual Communication in the Hall of North Star Lodge in Des Moines, at 10 A. M. Tuesday, July 12, 1898.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented, Grand Master James Washington, opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, and appointed his Committees. The Grand Master's Address is not printed in the Proceedings for which omission the Grand Secretary makes the following statement:

"The M. W. Grand Master James Washington read his annual address which contained many good recommendations touching all local affairs and quoting quite lengthy on historical affairs. But on account of its great length and the financial standing of the Treasury, Grand Master Brown ordered the list of lodges, the Grand Master's Address and all that could be dispensed with of the 1898 proceeding cut out."

We believe this to have been a mistake. It is the only time the Grand Master's Annual Address has not been printed in the Annual Proceeding of the Grand Lodge. The proceeding for 1898 were not printed till next year and are bound with 1899. One learns from the report of the Committee that analyzed the address that his recommendation for the use of traveling card was approved. This was the first time the Grand Lodge had approved the use of a traveling card.

Bro. I. L. Brown was elected Grand Master.

Bro. A. A. Bland re-elected Grand Secretary.

Davenport was selected for the next place of meeting.

TWELFTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DAVENPORT, July 11, 12, 13, 1899.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.

BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Secretary.

In accordance with the Constitution the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa met in the Hall of Hiram Lodge No. 19, at Davenport on Tuesday July 11, at 10 o'clock A. M. There being a constitutional number of lodges represented, the Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form by the Grand Master and Committees appointed.

The Grand Master then read his Annual Address. It was an interesting and inspiring document and contained much of interest to the Craft. It showed he had been tireless in his efforts to build up and strengthen the Craft in the jurisdiction. A new lodge had been organized at Chariton and one at Omaha, Neb., both of which were granted warrants. The lodge at Newton was revived under its old warrant and Golden Star Lodge No. 4, at Ottumwa resuscitated by the addition of 14 new members.

Bro. O. B. Clary of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17, and Bro. ^{Bong} Hopkins of Hiram Lodge No. 19, who had been expelled by their respective lodges were restored to Masonry.

At the Wednesday morning session M. W. Bro. Henry E. ^{Burris} ~~Burris~~, Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois, was admitted; received with honors and conducted to the East when he addressed the Grand Lodge. He presided over the Grand Lodge during the installation of officers.

The Grand Lodge enjoyed a street car ride over the cities of

Davenport, Rock Island and Moline.

There is no mention in either the 1898 or 1899 proceeding of the Masonic Benefit Association organized at Marshalltown in 1897.

Bro. I. L. Brown re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. A. A. Bland re-elected Grand Secretary.

Ottumwa was selected as the next place of meeting.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

OTTUMWA, IOWA, July 10, 11, 12, 1900.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.

BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Secretary.

This being the day fixed by the Constitution for the Annual Communication, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodges of Iowa assembled in Masonic Hall, at Ottumwa at 10 o'clock A. M. Tuesday, July 10, 1900. A constitutional number of lodges being represented Grand Master I. L. Brown opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, appointed his Committees and then read his Annual Address.

The address shows the Grand Master had not wearied or lagged in his efforts to build up and strengthen the Craft throughout the jurisdiction and was able to say without fear of contradiction "As Masons we ought to rejoice at the tokens of continued usefulness and solid prosperity distinguishing the subordinate lodges in our jurisdiction during the Masonic year now about to close. No previous year, perhaps, since the organization of the Grand Lodge, has exhibited a healthier Masonic tone, a more cheerful conformity to Masonic law and usage, or more solid proofs of en-

lightened zeal and fidelity to our time honored institution."

All attempts to change the time for holding the Grand Lodge were defeated.

Golden Star Lodge No. 4, of Ottumwa was ordered to pay to Maple Grove Lodge No. 16, of Oskaloosa the initiation fee received from Geo. E. Taylor, who was a resident of Oskaloosa at the time he was accepted and initiated in Golden Star Lodge.

A new lodge at Albia was granted a warrant as Albia Star No. 26.

The old question of a Masonic Relief Fund came up again and precipitated a heated discussion which resulted in the appointment of a committee to formulate a Relief Plan and report at the next session.

Although Grand Master Brown had expressed the wish in his Annual Address, "That you elect some one else to fill my position," he was re-elected Grand Master and Bro. A. A. Bland re-elected Grand Secretary.

Albia was chosen as the next place of meeting.

This Proceedings contains the revised Constitution and By-laws.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

ALBIA, IOWA, July 9, 10, 11, 1901.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.
BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Secretary.

This being the day fixed by the Constitution for the Annual Communication, the officers and members of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in Masonic Hall in Albia at 10 A. M. Tuesday, July 9, 1901.

to keep the same as a separate fund.

FOURTH--We recommend that no benefit be paid out until after the sitting of the next G. L. and after that period the deceased widow or estate to be paid the sum of \$50.00 upon certification of death.

FIFTH--In case the sum becomes exhausted the Grand Secretary to be empowered to order an extra assessment of 25 cents from each member of each subordinate lodge.

Signed,

J. Frank Blagburn,

W. H. Milligan,

E. T. Banks,

W. A. Searcy,

H. H. Lewis, Sec'y.

Amended so as to read voluntarily.

Bro. I. L. Brown was re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. J. Frank Blagburn, elected Grand Secretary.

Keokuk was chosen as the next place of meeting.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, July 8, 9, 10, 1902.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.

BRO. J. FRANK BLAGBURN, Grand Secretary.

As provided by the action of the last Grand Session and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa met in its Fifteenth Annual Session in the city of Keokuk on Tuesday, July 8, 1902, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Grand Master I. L. Brown opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, appointed his Committees and then read his Annual Address. He had visited all but three of the lodges and issued 15 dispensations

to keep the same as a separate fund.

FOURTH--We recommend that no benefit be paid out until after the sitting of the next G. L. and after that period the deceased widow or estate to be paid the sum of \$50.00 upon certification of death.

FIFTH--In case the sum becomes exhausted the Grand Secretary to be empowered to order an extra assessment of 25 cents from each member of each subordinate lodge.

Signed,

J. Frank Blagburn,

W. H. Milligan,

E. T. Banks,

W. A. Searcy,

H. H. Lewis, Sec'y.

Amended so as to read voluntarily.

Bro. I. L. Brown was re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. J. Frank Blagburn, elected Grand Secretary.

Keokuk was chosen as the next place of meeting.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, July 8, 9, 10, 1902.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.

BRO. J. FRANK BLAGBURN, Grand Secretary.

As provided by the action of the last Grand Session and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa met in its Fifteenth Annual Session in the city of Keokuk on Tuesday, July 8, 1902, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Grand Master I. L. Brown opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, appointed his Committees and then read his Annual Address. He had visited all but three of the lodges and issued 15 dispensations

to do work out of time.

Masonic Standing was granted to Bro. Thos. Jackson, of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17; Bro. R. Goins of Union Lodge No. 1, while Bro. R. Crys prays, for restoration to membership in Union Lodge No. 1, was ~~declined~~^{granted}.

A Committee was appointed to ascertain the need of a Masonic Home.

An amendment to the By-laws was adopted by which the annual dues were raised from 50 cts. to 75 cts.

The question of holding a School of Instruction was brought up as unfinished business, and after thorough discussion, was laid on the table.

A touching tribute on the life of the late President of the United States, William McKinley, as taken by permission from the Proceedings of the White Grand Lodge of Iowa, was presented by the special committee and ordered printed in the proceedings.

Memorial services at the A. M. E. Church, a picnic at Randa Park and a public installation and banquet at Gibbon's Opera House were the interesting public features of the session.

A spirited contest between Buxton, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Clinton for the honor of entertaining the next Grand Lodge resulted in the choice of Des Moines.

Bro. I. L. Brown was re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. A. A. Bland elected Grand Secretary.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, July 14, 15, 16, 1903.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.

BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Secretary.

In obedience with the provisions of the Constitution the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of North Star Lodge No. 2, in the city of Des Moines at 10 A. M. Tuesday, July 14, 1903.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented the Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and after appointing his Committees, read his Annual Address. It was quite a departure from the formal reports that had constituted previous Annual Addresses in that he devoted more than fourteen pages to an interesting and elegant tribute to "Masonry" and its influence upon mankind and the world in general. He visited ten of the fourteen lodges and issued dispensations to ten to do work out of time. Granted dispensation for a new lodge at Clarinda, which was warranted as Golden Circle No. 27, and one at Seattle, Washington, which was warranted Trinity Lodge No. 28. He reported the formation of a Grand Lodge for the State of Washington but that their lodges in that state had remained loyal to Iowa. He favored recognizing the new Grand Body as soon as it was shown to have been legally formed. He recommended that all lodges in arrears of dues to the Grand Lodge be granted such dues and made clear of the books.

The Committee appointed to codify the laws of the Grand and subordinate lodges into a complete Code to govern all Masonic lodges were unable to complete the work during the session. It was continued with authority to act during the recess of Grand Lodge and have its report ready for action at the next session, and one day was added to the next annual session to be known as

Edification Day. The Committee was composed of Bro. Geo. L. Suter, Bureka Lodge No. 20, Chairman; Bro. E. T. Banks, North Star Lodge No. 2 and Bro. H. K. Hillo,^W Rescue Lodge No. 25. They were all well informed in Masonic jurisprudence and fully qualified to perform the work assigned. The Committee together with the elective Grand Officers was ordered to meet in the city of Omaha, Neb., the Monday before the meeting of the next Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge upon invitation of Governor A. B. Cummins, visited the State House, Tuesday afternoon.

Decatur Lodge No. 13 at Sioux City was granted permission to change its number to 14, originally held by Anchor Lodge of Minneapolis.

The raising of Grand Lodge dues from 50 cents to 75 cents at the last session was dismissed as to its legality. The Grand Lodge dues were provided for and the amount fixed in the Constitution, Article XIII, which could not be annulled at one session. The Grand Master decided "that the action had the unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge and was valid; and that the amendment made last year will stand until changed by this Grand Lodge."

The Committee appointed to investigate the needs of a Masonic Home reported they had thus far found but three indigent Masons in the jurisdiction who would enter the home if one was provided. The Committee was continued.

Bro. I. L. Brown, re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. A. A. Bland, re-elected Grand Secretary.

Omaha, Neb. was selected as the next place of meeting.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

OMAHA, NEB., July 12, 13, 14, 1904.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.
BRO. A. A. BLAND, Grand Secretary.

Pursuant to the order at the last session and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa and its Masonic jurisdiction (the same embracing the whole state of Iowa, parts of the states of Washington, and Nebraska) convened in the city of Omaha, Neb., at 10 o'clock A. M. on Tuesday, July 12, 1904.

At the time of the organization of the United Grand Lodge, African Grand Lodge of Iowa held three lodges in the State of Minnesota. These lodges were allowed representation in the Convention that formed the United Grand Lodge and remained under the Iowa jurisdiction until the formation of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. The United Grand Lodge organized two lodges in Wisconsin, three in the State of Washington and one in Nebraska, Rescue No. 25, where this session was being held. It was the first time the United Grand Lodge had held its Annual Session outside of the State of Iowa, although African Grand Lodge held its fourth annual session in St. Paul in 1885.

Grand Master Brown opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed the usual Committees. At the afternoon session he read his Annual Address. Most of the address was devoted to a review of the circumstances which led to the organization of Rescue Lodge which had been made ^{the} ~~its~~ excuse for the Grand Lodge of Missouri ^{of Iowa} serving fraternal relations with the United Grand Lodge, we give here the full text of the facts as presented by Grand Master

Brown.

By reason of the much mooted question of Rescue Lodge No. 25, I deem it only proper to give this Grand Body the full statement of facts in the case as prepared by Brother H. K. Hillon, which will explain the cause of Rescue No. 25 being in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. Also the part the G. M. of Iowa has taken in the controversy, and is to be accepted as Iowa's side of the contention. It is to be considered as part of my official report, and I recommend the same be printed in full in the proceedings of this Grand Session, that the Masons of Iowa may thoroughly comprehend the situation in all its disagreeable phases.

"It has been the hope of the members of Rescue Lodge No. 25, A. F. & A. M., that the shameful and un-Masonic conduct of the colored Grand Lodge of Missouri and her colleagues, die within the walls of the colored Masonic fraternity, particularly at this time when many white Grand Lodges in America are on the brink of universal Masonic recognition. But it is evident by the publication through the Omaha "Enterprise" of Aug. 25th, of the severance of fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Iowa, that Missouri Grand Lodge is not content with the shameful and un-Masonic manner in which she dealt with Rescue Lodge while under her jurisdiction, and which causes Rescue Lodge to seek protection under the Masonic wing of Iowa Grand Lodge, but want the public to know that since she can do no more directly against Rescue Lodge she has now concluded to make Iowa Grand Lodge the object of her spite. Since this appears to be the fact, the public may know

the cause as well as the effect. Read and you will learn something of the calibre of Missouri Grand Lodge and her dictators.

" This trouble dates back to '95 when a number of members then in lodges Nos. 74 and 110 under the Missouri jurisdiction, honorably and regularly withdrew their membership because of the class of people in them and their conduct, and the suicidal manner in which they persisted in conducting lodge affairs, proof of this lying in the fact that both Missouri's subordinate lodges in Omaha are defendants in the Douglas County courts right now. These members withdrew and formed a club, and asked Grand Master, J. H. Pelham, for instructions in the procedure. He gave the same and advised the club to go ahead, preparatory to organization of a new lodge. Neither of the old lodges would recommend the club as per constitution.

" After nearly one year of constant work on this matter, guided all the while by Pelham, the following letter (a copy of which is on file and before me now,) which was sent to Pelham from the club) will explain much:

Omaha, Neb., May 7, 1896.

J. H. Pelham, M. W. G. M.,

Dear Sir And Brother: "With profound respect for the honorable and important position you hold, we have been made to assert our manliness in just defense. We now detach the man from the office and state herein a few facts for you to ponder over. Our long forbearance with you has at last ceased. We feel and believe you have been trivializing with our patience for ten or eleven months past. We feel that in the end we will find our labors have went for naught. Ten months ago we asked the Grand Lodge for a dispen-

sation to organise a new lodge. It was left to you with power to act. You told our representative you would come to Omaha within six weeks and see how matter stand. Did you do it? We have on file a letter from you, dated Oct. 21st, '95 saying you would be in Omaha on or about the 10th of November. Did you do it? We have on file a telegram, dated Nov. 29th, '95, saying you would be here the following Saturday. You came, but did you do as you said you would when you came? That night in open session did you not say the unimpaired Masonic standing of this club warranted you in granting a dispensation and that you would do so when five more members were added to the club? and that you would do so regardless of a recommendation from either No. 74 or 110, as you could plainly see that the spirit of opposition was so great that it would be impossible to get the same?

"Have we not complied with your every requirement, not in only this, but in every particular?

"On file, from you, dated March 11th, '96, you say: "I have concluded to grant the prayer; send petition and \$40.00 and I shall act within ten days after receiving the money." Have you done it? The money was forwarded you by express, March 18th, '96, and you received the same. On file from you, dated April 14th, '96, you say "I shall be in Omaha in a very few days to organize you." Did you do so?

"Notwithstanding you have failed to keep your word in almost every instance (with us) we have confided in you, and thought you would deal with us justly and fairly. From the way you have used and misused us in this matter, this body of men and Masons--trusted Masonic advocates--has been led to fear that the Grand East

has either forgotten a very important portion of his obligation or has allowed himself to fall into the wake of the class of Masons (?) which was the cause of this important move.

Even the limited experience some of our club members have had at Missouri Grand Lodge sessions is sufficient to give knowledge of the many different methods (anything but Masonic to say the least) used to accomplish an object, but we think the Grand East far above such conduct. We speak just as we feel in this matter. We feel and know that a good cause has been murdered by men of brain, but void of Masonic principle for a selfish reason.

On April 24th, '96, we requested that you either act on the petition, or send it and our money back to us, which you have made no reply whatever. Now we demand that you return petition and \$40.00 we sent you March 18, '96.

With due respect for your official position, we must tell you that your actions or rather inactions have aroused a spirit of independence within us, and we feel there is a just cause for it, too.

We do this with much regret, but we are determined to bring this matter to a head at once.

--Signed

MASONIC CLUB.

This letter brought him. Rather than let go the money he came to Omaha June 10th, '96, held a conference with M. O. Ricketts, T. P. Mahanmitt and A. D. White, they being the leaders in opposition, asked them if they would object to a dispensation to organize us in South Omaha. They said no, providing at no time should the new lodge move to Omaha. Pelham promised those men that should be. The same evening he met our club and promised us that if we would consent to being set up in South Omaha that as soon

as we got our warrant (Aug. '96) we could come to and remain in Omaha permanently. We agreed to do this, and told him that under no other circumstances would we agree to stay longer in South Omaha, as all our members lived in Omaha, save one.

The dispensation was granted.

Pelham left town that same evening, leaving G. F. Franklin to do the work, who in turn deputized R. W. Freeman to go to South Omaha and set up the lodge, which he did on June 18th, '96. On this occasion the club paid Pelham \$5.00 more, which he exacted of us. Warrant was granted on Aug. 20th, '96. By repeated solicitations Pelham granted a removal to Omaha, September 28th, '96.

At the Grand Lodge session Aug. '97, H. O. Ricketts, for his lodge, threatened to surrender his warrant, No. 110, if our lodge was not made to go to South Omaha and stay. At said session Pelham appointed himself and W. H. Jones a commission to come to Omaha and see to the matter. They arrived in Omaha Aug. 29, '97, and held a joint session of all three lodges next night, at which time one of the most dastardly and unlawful, as well as highly un-masonic, acts was committed by one C. E. Coleman, member of No. 74, in the presence of G. M. J. H. Pelham, as well as all others present without even one word of rebuke from the lips of the grand head presiding. He, Coleman, without the least provocation, whipped out a large sized revolver and brandished it in the air with threats of using it on one of our lodge members under certain circumstances. Nor at any time after was this crime prosecuted or ordered so.

The commission rendered decision as follows:

For the promotion of Masonic peace and harmony, Acacia Lodge

No. 46, (that being our name and number under Missouri) will leave her lodge rooms in Omaha stand furnished as they are, hold their meetings through the month of October in South Omaha and resume our former position in Omaha, November, '97.

We obeyed, secured the privileges of the A. M. E. church in South Omaha, held a well attended Lodge Communication October 11th, '97, and at no time through the month of October did our lodge attempt to hold meetings in Omaha. Our first meeting held in Omaha after complying with the above order was Nov. 9th, '97. The special object of this meeting was to decide the question of surrendering our warrant for the reason that Pelham failed to give us orders to return to Omaha, other than by the original decision of the commission. His district deputy, G. F. Franklin, was present at this meeting and stated to the lodge that he had reported to Pelham: "Orders complied with," and read from Pelham as follows:

"Hannibal, Mo., Oct. 27, '97.

"Respectfully referred to the D. D. Grand with power to act.

"J. H. Pelham, G. M."

There and then Franklin gave us orders to hold our meetings permanently in Omaha. That settled the question of surrender.

At the annual grand session held at Springfield, Mo., Aug. 2, '98, our lodge had no representation. Feeling financially unable to pay G. L. assessments and a delegate's expenses, too, caused by fees, taxation and the many useless and unjust bills created by their acts, we made Franklin our proxy, but he took quite ill on his way to Springfield and was placed under a doctor's care at Kansas City and did not get to the grand session. Hence our

lodge had no representation.

Finding us in this position, Ricketts took advantage of it and landed the knockout blow by making a false accusation, that we had not complied with the orders of the commission in that we had not met in South Omaha as reported.

Notwithstanding on file in the office of the presiding officer was the report of his deputy to the contrary. Pelham, without one word of ~~word~~ defense for us, allowed the following resolution to pass, to-wit:

"Acacia Lodge No. 46, not having carried out the provisions of the commissioners, said lodge to hold their meetings in South Omaha until such time as the Grand Master may choose to allow them to meet in Omaha."

Under date of Aug. 20th, '98, Pelham sent us notice of the passing of the resolution as above stated, but did not say when it should go into effect. Aug. 31, '98, we answered as follows:

(First giving in detail facts in the case, we said:)

"We keep a true record of all business transacted; the same is subject to the inspection of the Grand Lodge Grand Master, or his deputy or any other true Mason, so you and all may know that not a single order or request of yours from the birth of 'Acacia' up to the present time has been disobeyed. If you consider your deputy unreliable, that you could not accept his report on this matter as correct, why did you not have the matter rest and ask for our records?"

Believing that if your orders are enforced it will be the cause of 'Acacia's' disorganization, we ask that a stay of enforcement of the resolution be granted until we have been given a chance to vindicate ourselves of the false accusation of M. O.

Ricketts which caused the resolution. Our proxy not being present, we were at your mercy.

--SECRETARY.

Our lodge received from Pelham on Nov. 7th, '98, the same notice as the other. We at once sent a delegate to Marshalltown, Iowa, to confer with I. L. Brown, Grand Master of that State. We laid before him a bundle of documentary evidences as to how we had been mistreated and wronged at the hands of Missouri and her associates in this matter and asked him for protection. He said:

The evidence before me is sufficient proof of the continuation of Gross injustice at the hands of Missouri's Grand Master, Grand Lodge and your enemies in the cause of Masonry, and is sufficient to warrant any Grand Lodge in coming to your rescue; therefore, if your lodge will process regularly by first paying Missouri all moneys due her and surrender to her your warrant, I will grant you a dispensation to work under Iowa."

In regular session of our lodge Dec. 5th, '98, we surrendered our warrant, which, together with \$12.63 money order, was mailed to Pelham's address asking him for the return of receipt for money. Again and again did we ask for receipt for money sent at this time, but to no purpose; he would only say: "I received yours, dated Dec. 6, '98, with contents;" but we did finally get the post-office receipt from the Omaha postmaster, showing that Pelham had received the money.

At the same time we surrendered our warrant, we asked for a dispensation from Iowa, which was received Dec. 7th, '98. So there was no time elapsed between the surrender and the granting of the dispensation.

Grand Master Brown advised T. S. Parvin, Grand Secretary of the Iowa (white) Grand Lodge of his actions and asked his opinion of the correctness of the same, and Mr. Parvin said:

"The rights of Grand Lodges in states or territories where there is no Grand Lodge is so well established to allow one Grand Lodge to exclude all others. You have done right in granting a dispensation."

Ricketts says in his article: "Acacia Lodge was ordered to within ninety days after the passage of the resolution" etc. Pelham's notice to us certainly was in error, as it did not mention when the order should take effect. Acacia Lodge never disobeyed orders, but have been under persecution at the hands of Masonic enemies, and she has done nothing other than break down under the yoke of injustice at the hands of an unjust Grand Master and those who have kept him in the Grand Oriental chair sixteen consecutive years, a precedent believe never before recorded in the annals of Free Masonry.

Ricketts direct the public to Sec. 10 of Missouri By-Laws, wherein it says: "The forfeiture, arrest or surrender of a lodge involves the suspension of all its members," etc. Why did he not further quote Sec. 9 of the same laws wherein says: "In case of the dissolution of a lodge, the Grand Secretary or some brother shall at once proceed to receive its funds on hands, collect its outstanding dues, and dispose of its jewels, furniture and other property of every kind, and he shall place the proceeds thereof in the treasury of the Grand Lodge" and why did Pelham accept the warrant and money and not take steps to recover our effects as per

law? nor notify us of our Masonic standing, for he did not know that we had been accepted into Iowa for several weeks after?

We believe the framers of this law did not expect a case of this kind to ever occur--that a lodge working regularly and in a healthy financial condition as was "Aescia" would ever surrender their warrant. Had this dawned upon their minds we believe such lodges would have been exempt; but however that may be, is it not bondage Masonry where a lodge, after paying all they owe to the Grand Lodge, must still give them their lawful possessions, purchased with their individual money?

We do not think any Masonic records show a lodge surrendered while in a healthy condition; and why is not Pelham satisfied to be relieved of a portion of trouble? This is what he says in his annual address in 1898?

"We, the commission, went to Omaha, etc.; etc. We found the two old lodges very much opposed to the new lodge, and the new lodge very much incensed over the attitude of the old lodges. No. 74 expressed their opposition in a very conservative, cautious manner. No. 110 manifested more decided opposition.----It is my impression that the real trouble in Omaha is beyond any remedy that this body can suggest; etc."

Pelham pretends not to know what caused this opposition; but he does. It was this: Because we, while members of the old lodges were persistent in our demands that the land-marks and true principles of Free Masonry, and the constitutional requirements, be more closely observed. We demanded that the following crimes and offenses, of which many of their members were guilty, be checked. Misappro-

priation of lodge funds, gambling and conducting gambling dens, drunkenness and running whiskey shops are among the counts.

Every statement herein made is a fact, and on file in the office of the secretary of Rescue Lodge No. 25, are documentary evidence to back it up; and because I. L. Brown and the members of the Iowa Grand Lodge are Masons good and true enough to come to the rescue of worthy brother Masons, they have committed a heinous crime in the sight of Missouri and her colleagues, and she must either undo what she has done and deliver Rescue Lodge up to Missouri for them to appease their wrath upon or lose what little fraternal friendship they once had for Iowa.

A new lodge was organized at Dubuque, and warranted as Dubuque Lodge No. 29. The lodge at Newton was renewed under its old name; Newton Lodge No. 8.

The report of the Code Committee was approved and the chairman authorized to have the new Code printed and distributed to the lodges.

The Grand Lodge denounced as irregular and spurious the actions of one John G. Jones in attempting to organize a clandestine Grand Lodge in Illinois, and "pledged its moral support to the regular and constitutional Grand Lodge of Illinois in its effort to preserve the dignity and integrity of its rightful authority." Mr. Jones, a leading lawyer of Chicago and for years a prominent leader of Masonry in the Illinois jurisdiction, had been expelled for gross un-masonic conduct, and the Iowa jurisdiction so notified. He was well known in this jurisdiction for his activities in York and Scottish rite Masonry and had been honored by having a lodge at Council Bluffs named after him.

The Committee appointed to make an equal distribution of money collected for charity for the years of 1903 and 1904, found a total on hand of \$221.08, and recommended that \$25.00 be the limited amount for the first year, beginning from this Grand Session, and as the funds increase so shall the benefits increase to the amount of \$50.00, but should the treasury decrease, so shall the benefits decrease in proportion.

Net cash balance on hand, \$432.31.

Bro. I. L. Brown re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. W. W. Gross, elected Grand Secretary.

Cedar Rapids chosen as the next place of meeting.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

CEDAR RAPIDS, July 11, 12, 13, 1905.

BRO. I. L. BROWN, Grand Master.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Secretary.

The M. W. United Grand Lodge for Iowa and jurisdiction, obedient to provisions of its Constitution, convened in its Eighteenth Annual Communication at 10 o'clock A. M. in Masquako Hall in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Tuesday, July 11, 1905.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented, Grand Master I. L. Brown opened the Grand Lodge in Maple Form and appointed his committees.

A cordial welcome was extended on behalf of Mt. Olive Lodge by Bro. Luther Lowery and responded to on behalf of the Grand Lodge by Past Grand Master A. A. Bland.

At the afternoon session Grand Master Brown read his Annual Address. He devoted seven pages to the subject "The Mental Habitation," which is replete with inspiring sentiment. Visited all

but two lodges. Suspended five members of Hiram Lodge, while there "whom I did not think fit to belong to a Masonic Lodge." The Committee failed to mention it. November 1, 1904 set up a new lodge at Enterprise, Iowa to be known as Doric⁰¹. D. warranted No. 30.

Bro. Geo. L. Suter, chairman of the Code Committee gave a detailed report covering the cost of printing and distribution of the Code, for which work the Grand Lodge presented him with a handsome Past Master's jewel. The best and most accurate history of the Code is given by Bro. Suter in the Preface to the first edition (1905) of the Code and is reproduced here in full.

"The craft of the jurisdiction are to be congratulated upon the final adoption of a constitution and code for their guidance. The failure of repeated efforts heretofore made in the same direction has contributed much to the formation of a purpose to make this a success.

' At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge in 1902 the Grand Master in his report to some extent reviewed the proceedings of the Grand Lodge with a view to bring to the attention of the craft the true condition of our statutory laws, and the necessity of immediate steps in the direction of securing a system of laws of themselves, adequate and so compiled as to render them of practical use. Upon these suggestions the Committee on Grand Master's address, by its chairman, Geo. L. Suter, in its review of the report of the Grand Master, recommended that a committee of three, to consist of Brother Geo. L. Suter, E. T. Banks and J. E. Todd, should be appointed to prepare and report a Code of Masonic

Law. Thereafter and at the same session at the instance of Brother J. H. Shepard the duty of preparing and reporting a new constitution was assigned to the same committee, and thus the Grand Lodge embarked upon an enterprise of providing a complete system of written law. At the annual communication in 1903 the committee presented its draft for a constitution which, after amendments to conform to the judgment of the Grand Lodge, was approved and passed for consideration and a committee was appointed to consist of Brother Geo. L. Suter, E. T. Banks and H. K. Hillon.

In 1904 as was required for constitutional enactments, at the communication of the Grand Lodge in 1904 the constitution was again approved, and became the fundamental law of the jurisdiction.

At the same communication the committee reported a Code, which with some amendments was adopted, and is the law herewith presented.

To assume that the laws will meet the demands or expectations of the Craft would be unwarranted, but there is great reason to believe that by a "due attention" on the part of those who are to construe them, much of the embarrassment of the past may be avoided.

Much of the confusion in the past was occasioned by irregularities if not illegalities in our legislative proceedings. And the question has often arisen as to whether or not particular acts were designed as law. This constitution and code presents to the Craft the entire written law of the jurisdiction, and hence, as to such law, the past records of the Grand Lodge will furnish no light. This Code of Masonic Law, and such acts of the Grand Lodge

as may properly amend or modify it will constitute the written law. At the regular communication of the Grand Lodge in 1904, after the adoption of the Code of Masonic Law, the writer hereof was appointed to publish and distribute the same and it is herewith presented to the Craft with the hope that its use may not prove the effort a fruitless one.

Fraternally,

Geo. L. Suter,

Chairman of Masonic Code.

Bro. Wm. Burrell submitted a report on the matter of establishing a Masonic Home, but no action was taken.

An hours instructive entertainment was enjoyed by the members of the Grand Lodge at the Iowa Masonic Library on invitation of the management and under the direction of the librarian, Mr. J. E. Malcombe.

The Grand Lodge having adopted a new Code of Laws decided it was proper time to select a new set of officers. Bro. I. L. Brown who had served with much ability and general satisfaction in the office of Grand Master for the past seven years, a record for service that has never been equalled in that office in the Iowa jurisdiction, was succeeded by Deputy Grand Master, Bro. W. H. Milligan who was elected Grand Master. Bro. H. K. Hillen, was elected Grand Secretary and Bro. E. T. Banks was elected Grand Custodian, an office created by the new Code and charged with authority to disseminate the ritualistic work in place of the Grand Lecturer.

Burlington was selected as the next place of meeting.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

BURLINGTON, IOWA July 10, 11, 12, 1906.

BRO. W. H. MILLIGAN, Grand Master.
BRO. H. K. HILLON, Grand Secretary.

Persuant to the provisions of the Constitution the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in its Nineteenth Annual Communication, in Grand Army Hall in the City of Burlington, Tuesday July 10, 1906 at 8:45 A. M. A school of Instruction was opened and the First Rank conferred upon three candidates by a degree team from, Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17, of Cedar Rapids.

At 11 o'clock a constitutional number of lodges being represented Grand Master Milligan opened the Grand Lodge in ample Form, and admonished the members to give their prompt and continuous attendance during the entire session.

At the afternoon sessions the Grand Master announced his committees and read his Annual Address.

He had visited all lodges. Issued a dispensation for a new lodge at North Yakima, State of Washington, which was warranted, Guiding Star No. 31. Deputised Bro. H. K. Hillon, Grand Secretary, to lay the corner stone of Bethel A. M. E. Church at Council Bluffs. Refused to recognize the so-called Grand Lodge of Oregon and Washington and the so-called Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, such combinations being held as contrary to the doctrine of State Sovereignty in Masonic jurisdictions. Declared against the growing practice of subordinate lodges paying sick benefits, as being contrary to the principle of true Masonic Charity. He had refused all requests for dispensations to do work out of time. He reported having satisfactorily adjusted the Missouri

controversy and restored Masonic relations between the two jurisdictions. On this subject he said: "On the 14th of August, 1905, I opened correspondence with Bro. C. G. Williams M. W. G. M. of Missouri with a view to bringing the long drawn out trouble between the respective jurisdiction of Iowa and Missouri to an end which was continued until October 3rd, at which time Bro. Williams gave me the basis which I accepted, and which was also accepted by the members of what was known under Iowa as Rescue Lodge No. 25. Each of these men who were members of Acacia Lodge at the time they surrendered their warrant to Missouri petitioned M. W. G. M. Williams through me for Grand Lodge Demits, which was granted free of charge and here ended the controversy."

"As is well known from former reports to this Grand Lodge Rescue Lodge did pay all claims made on her by Missouri before surrendering her Warrant, this released them as a Lodge, but left them still individually under Missouri and the only way out was by Grand Lodge Demits.

The reader may still ask: "Why did not Grand Master Pelham^a issue those demits when Acacia Lodge surrendered its warrant? Perhaps only those who are acquainted with the history of the Pelham regime in Missouri Masonry can answer.

The Grand Master recommended several changes in the new Code, and several amendments were offered from the floor, but the Grand Lodge appeared to be well satisfied with the new laws and rejected all attempts to make radical changes. Past Grand Master J. H. Shepard, who was one of the best Masonic jurists in the Grand Lodge took occasion to discuss the new Code in the preface to his report

on Fraternal Correspondence, and of it he says: "You have heard a great deal of complaints as to the law that governs our Grand Lodge and the subordinate lodges. It is true that the Code is new, and in many ways is a change from the old law. We believe all that is required, is a better understanding. We have just return from a careful study of the new Code and we are prepared to say that it is in harmony with the general law of the order and there are but few changes needed, and as fast as it is under-stood, just so fast will it find its friends increasing. The greatest mistake that was made is that it was not index. It puts one that is not familar with it to some trouble to find the law that treat on a given subject. Give the code a chance and it will win the friendship of every Mason in the State, that will study it with a desire to understand it.

Bro. J. H. Shepard, Bro. H. K. Hillen and Bro. H. E. Jacobs were appointed as standing committee to compile a history of Negro Masonry in the State of Iowa with instructions to report at the 1907 session.

A resolution by Bro. W. W. Cross to have the Grand Lodge incorporated was defeated.

The special committee to audit the accounts of the 1906 Grand Session, reported that Past Grand Treasurer Wm. Coatsen was indebted to the Grand Lodge in the sum of \$25.00.

Bro. H. K. Hillen, Grand Secretary in his annual report took occasion to severely criticize the condition in which he found the records and property of the Grand Lodge when he took over the office. He reported having gathered to-gether a complete set of the proceedings from 1888, to date; had them bound into one volume

and placed in the office as the property of the Grand Lodge. We wonder what became of them.

A school of instruction was held on the morning of the last day at which the third degree was exemplified by a degree team from North Star Lodge, No. 2, of Des Moines.

Bro. W. H. Milligan re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. H. K. Hillon re-elected Grand Secretary.

Bro. E. T. Banks re-elected Grand Custodian.

Des Moines was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA July 9, 10, 11, 1907.

BRO. W. H. MILLIGAN, Grand Master.

BRO. H. K. HILLON, Grand Secretary.

A school of instruction was conducted by the Grand Custodian in North Star Lodge Hall on the evening before the opening of the Grand Lodge. The degree work was exemplified by a degree team selected from North Star Lodge and was in strict accordance with the new ritual authorized by the Constitution of the new Code. It is claimed this work was being used in some of the lodges prior to the adoption of the Code but there is no record authorizing its use to be found in any of the printed proceedings. Bro. Bank,^d who served as Custodian from 1905 to 1908, did not take kindly to the new ritual and was not enthusiastic in its use.

Persuant to the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in its Twentieth Annual Communication at 10:30 A. M. Tuesday, July 9, 1907, in the Hall of North Star Lodge, No. 2 in Des Moines, Iowa.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented, Grand Master W. H. Milligan opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, and appointed his Committees. At the afternoon session, he read his Annual Address. The address is devoted largely to a review of his visits to the subordinate lodges and his recommendation in support of a better financial policy for the Endowment Department.

These recommendations were adopted by the Grand Lodge and for the first time the Endowment Department was placed on a sound financial basis, and it has prospered and functioned satisfactorily ever since. He laid the corner stone of the Second Baptist Church at Duxton on October 8, 1906.

Grand Master Milligan was selected as the delegate to the Masonic Congress at Jamestown, Va.

The Grand Lodge revoked the warrants of Albia Star Lodge No. 26 at Albia and Crystal Lodge No. 24 at Chariton. Both lodges had become defunct. The case of Hiram Lodge No. 19, at Davenport, whose warrant had been arrested by the Grand Master, and the case of Golden Circle Lodge No. 27, at Clarinda, which had surrendered its warrant, were placed in the hands of the Grand Master for further consideration.

Greeting were received from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, the first in three years.

Recognized the Grand Lodge of Washington. Three lodges were thereby lost to the Iowa jurisdiction.

It was ordered that Union Lodge No. 1, be notified of the failure of her representatives to attend the sessions of the Grand Lodge while in Des Moines, and it was further ordered "that hereafter the Grand Secretary report to the Worshipful Master of any

lodge whose delegate does not attend the Grand Lodge while it is in session."

Bro. W. H. Milligan re-elected Grand Master.

Bro. H. K. Hillon elected Grand Treasurer.

Bro. T. H. Sturgis elected Grand Secretary.

Bro. E. T. Banks re-elected Grand Custodian.

The Committee on History was continued although there is no report of its work in the proceedings.

Buxton was selected as the ~~next~~ place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Cash on hand at close of session \$376.29.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

BUXTON, IOWA July 14, 15, 16, 1908.

BRO. W. H. MILLIGAN, Grand Master.

BRO. T. H. STURGIS, Grand Secretary.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in its Twenty-First Annual Communication in the Auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. in Buxton, Iowa, at 10:30 A. M., Tuesday, July 14, 1908. A constitutional number of lodges being represented, Grand Master W. H. Milligan opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his Committees. At the afternoon session he read his Annual Address. He gave a short review of the work accomplished during the past twenty-one years, and spoke encouragingly of the future. He had visited all the lodges and reminded the members that it was in the subordinate lodges and not in the Grand Lodges that the real work Masonry was to be done. On December 22, 1907 had laid the corner stone of the Second A. M.

E. Church in Buxton. Spoke of the Masonic Congress at Jamestown, Va., as being interesting and helpful to all who attended. Organized Twin City Lodge U. D. at Council Bluffs. Dispensation continued. Recommended a per-diem be fixed for the Grand Master and his Deputies when on official business. No action taken.

The Grand Lodge appropriated \$10.00 to the W. H. Upton Monument Fund. Authorized Union Lodge No. 1 to solicit funds for a Monument for Rev. Bro. Amos Johnson. Voted down a proposition to locate the Grand Lodge permanently.

The Grand Master was empowered to confer with the Grand Lodge of Illinois and ascertain on what terms Illinois would accept Iowa's indigent Masons and care for them in their Masonic Home at Rock Island, Ills., the cost to be borne by the Grand Lodge. An invitation was received from Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to be represented by delegate at the Centennial observance to be held in Boston, Sept. 8, 1908, and the Grand Secretary was instructed to issue certificates to all who desired to attend.

I find no report of the Historical Committee that had served during the past two years. However, an entire new Committee was appointed consisting of Brothers I. L. Brown, John L. Thompson and J. Wilbur Morris.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were re-elected. Bro. W. P. Wafe of Rescue Lodge No 25, elected Grand Custodian. Keokuk was chosen as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Cash balance in Treasury \$74.87.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, IOWA July 13, 14, 15, 1909.

BRO. W. H. MILLIGAN, Grand Master.
BRO. T. H. STURGIS, Grand Secretary.

It being the hour of 9 o'clock A. M. on Tuesday, July 13, 1909, and in accordance with the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of Union Lodge No. 1 at Keokuk, Iowa and was opened in Ample Form by Grand Master W. H. Milligan, who then appointed his Committees.

At the afternoon session the Grand Master read his Annual Address. He "found with a few exception, very little cause for complaint touching the condition of the Craft in the jurisdiction." He had visited all the lodges except No. 8 at Newton and No. 16 at Oskaloosa. Had found much improvement in jurisprudence, the Code and the ritual. It is difficult for one to accept this statement as representing the true condition if one is to judge from some of the arguments made on the floor at this session. Was unable to get any reply to his letters to the Grand Master of Illinois in regard to the matter of placing Iowa's indigent Masons in the Illinois' Masonic Home. He refused a dispensation for a new lodge in South Omaha, Neb.

He organized a second lodge in the City of Des Moines and in reporting this work he said: "By virtue of invested authority I have opened and dispensated a new lodge in the city of Des Moines to be known as Hiram Lodge, U. D., Brother S. Joe Brown, W. M.

"As to this work there has been a great amount of comment as to the stand I have taken. Four years ago when I was placed in the Grand East I was urged to set up a new lodge in Des Moines, as

it seemed that North Star No. 2, had declared, by the power in the black ball vested, she would make no more Masons; but I would not consider the matter at that time, thinking and hoping the deadlock of North Star would be broken, but this was vain hope, matters went on so until this lodge went down from eighty-seven members to fifty-six last report, 1908, when they should have at least one hundred and twenty-five members. On or about the first of October, 1908, I received a petition from fifteen men that wanted to be made Masons and set apart as a lodge. I investigated the matter and found they were all good timber but did not want to petition North Star, as many of their friends had done and been turned down. I then took the matter up with North Star, sending them the names of the petitioners, asking them if they would recommend these men as good timber for the building and give consent to setting them apart as a new lodge. In a few days I received an answer from them that they would not consent to the organization of a new lodge, with no plausible reason whatever, only Des Moines did not need another Masonic Lodge (which was true if the one they had would let any one in, either profane or by demit.)

December 14th I met North Star and asked the lodge if they had anything against any of the men whose names were attached to this petition. Not a word was said against one of them. I at once decided if North Star would not make Masons in Des Moines I would, believing the actions of North Star was ^{not} in accord with Lockwood's Masonic Law and Practice (see page 25) and more of a personal matter than anything else. I invited Doric Lodge No. 30, of Enterprise, to meet in Des Moines, January 22, 1909, to assist me

to do the work, and they were there, also some of North Star members, and we did the work and Hiram Lodge has been doing work ever since, and we will ask the Grand Lodge for a warrant at this session. Now, my dear Brothers, seeing the wheels of Masonic Progress at a stand still I felt it was my duty, as Grand Master, to move them, knowing it to be for the good of the order. I did it, now it is with you to say if I did right or wrong in this case.

The request for a warrant was referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters which made the following report: "After having examined the dispensation of said Hiram U. D. lodge located at Des Moines, and after having heard the testimony of the M. W. G. Master and W. M. of North Star Lodge No. 2, located at Des Moines, we, your committee, recommend that the Grand Lodge revoke this dispensation, and empower the Grand Master to grant each member of said U. D. Lodge a demit which will give them Masonic standing, the committee having been assured by the W. M. of North Star Lodge No. 2 that on application by said members of the U. D. lodge there would be no difficulty for them to place their membership in said North Star Lodge No. 2.

A. L. Drew, Chairman,

H. T. Elliott,

Geo. L. Suter,

Committee.

On the motion to adopt this report there occurred what will go down in history as the most acrimonious debate that has ever occurred on the floor of the United Grand Lodge. After nearly two days of contention the Grand Lodge by a vote of 21 to 11 adopted the report and thereby not only denied the new lodge a warrant

but revoked the dispensation. No one will question its power or authority to do both. Two questions seems to have been stressed in the arguments: Did the Grand Master have authority to organize a new lodge without the "recommendation of the nearest lodge"? and was it advisable to have a second lodge in the city of Des Moines? This last question, we believe was the real influence that controlled the action of the Grand Lodge. To contend that the Grand Master at that time did not have authority to place a second lodge in Des Moines without the recommendation of North Star Lodge, which was the nearest lodge, would disclose as we believe, a lack of knowledge and understanding of the Code. Prior to the adoption of the Code in 1904, the Constitution provided the petition for a new lodge must have the recommendation of the nearest lodge. The Code read, Sec. 8, Article 12: "Nor shall any dispensation issue for a lodge until the chartered lodge nearest the proposed location shall have notice of the application, and an opportunity given for a statement of their reasons for and against the granting of such dispensation." This, it seems, Grand Master Milligan had done. This lodge was prohibited by law from using the name Hiram, as there had been a lodge by that name.

In referring to House File No. 136 of the General Assembly of Iowa, generally known at that time as the Harding Bill, he said: "A bill for an act to protect benevolent, humane, fraternal or charitable corporations in use of their names and emblems and providing penalties for the violations thereof.

"The first section of this bill would have put every Negro lodge in the State of Iowa out of business and we would not have the pleasure of meeting here today. This bill, I have here a copy

of, that all who have not read it may do so. We owe the defeat of this bill to our own Honorable George H. Woodson and S. Joe Brown. Brother Woodson was the first to notice the bill and what lay behind such a law and its meaning to the Negro Masonic Lodges and others of Iowa. He at once got busy by wire and mail to kill this bill before the committee. He ordered his law partner, S. Joe Brown, to go at once, with all that he could call to his aid before the Judiciary Committee, and there work for the death of this infamous Harding Bill. Brother Brown, in obedience to orders, left his business and called to his assistance Brother R. W. Hyde of Des Moines and Reverend ^{B. W.} A. Ford of Cedar Rapids. They went before the committee and never left them until they had the promise of a majority to vote against the bill and it was killed. These Brethren not being able to reach me before the fight, went in and won, and reported it to me at once and asked my approval. And all that I can say, my dear Brethren, is that you have my approval a thousand times in all honorable fights for the up building of our race, and all I regret is that I did not get the word in time to help with the fight."

A similar bill introduced in the Illinois Legislature about the same time and applying to un-incorporated Societies was met by the Illinois Negro Masons by incorporating their Grand Lodge under the name of Prince Hall Grand Lodge W. & A. M. for Illinois and jurisdiction.

He declared the provisions of the Code allowing the elective officers of a subordinate lodge to resign to be "contrary to all Masonic jurisprudence" and recommended they be repealed. The jurisprudence Committee agreed with him, but whether they were in

fact repealed it is hard to say. It is true, however, that the same law was retained in the Revision of 1913 and has been the law in the jurisdiction ever since.

He reported the successful organization of a Grand Chapter of the O. E. S. in Iowa which had received recognition from all sister jurisdictions.

He had been able through the assistance of Bro. E. T. Banks to block the efforts of an imposter working to establish a "National Compact" clandestine lodge in Des Moines. He decided the Grand Master had no authority to prohibit a subordinate lodge from issuing a demit to a member who was legally entitled to one.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected. Des Moines was chosen as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA, July 12, 13, 14, 1910.

BRO. W. H. MILLIGAN, Grand Master.

BRO. T. H. STURGIS, Grand Secretary.

In the absence of the Grand Custodian, Bro. W. P. Wade, the Grand Master deputised Bro. J. H. Reynolds, Worshipful Master of Doric Lodge No. 30, to conduct a School of Instruction on Monday evening preceeding the opening of the Grand Lodge. Bro. Reynolds devoted most of the time to a rehearsal of the lectures, and as a consequence "What Followed?" became the shibboleth by which the meeting is best remembered.

In compliance with the Constitution the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of North Star Lodge No. 2, in the City of Des Moines on Tuesday, July 12, 1910, at 10:00 A. M. A

constitutional number of lodges being present, Grand Master, W. H. Milligan opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, and appointed his Committees.

For the first time since 1894, the compiler of this history was present in the Grand Lodge, being present as one of the representatives of Maple Grove Lodge No. 16. In preparing the digest thus far, he has depended almost wholly upon the more or less incomplete records found in the printed proceedings, while it is true several Historical Committees have been appreciated from time to time none have filed a report that has been printed, nor has the writer been able to obtain any copy of their work or any of the data collected by them. Since this session, the writer has been a regular attendance at every session of the Grand Lodge and has taken an active part in its deliberations and can assure the reader that the digests which shall follow will contain an accurate historical record do the Grand Lodge.

At the afternoon session Grand Master Milligan read his Annual Address. He had again visited all the lodges, and reported that the general condition of the Craft was never better. He made two important recommendations both of which were enacted in to laws. One was to change the time of the election of officers of subordinate lodges from December to June. The other was to raise the amount of the Endowment Benefit from \$50.00 to \$100.00 and the annual assessment for the same from \$1.00 to \$2.00, payable quarterly, beginning July 1st, and the Grand Secretary instructed to notify each lodge within 30 days.

He reported having granted Doric Lodge No. 30, located at En-

terprise, permission to move to East Des Moines. This lodge was organized by Grand Master I. L. Brown on Nov. 1, 1904, and warranted by the Grand Lodge in 1906. At the time it was organized Enterprise was a thriving little mining town of some 350 inhabitants situated about 14 miles northeast of Des Moines. After the Grand Lodge refused a warrant to Hiram Lodge U. D. in Des Moines and granted its members dimitts a number of its members were permitted to place their dimitts in Doric Lodge and as some of its members had moved to Des Moines permission was asked by the lodge to move into the east side of the city where much better accommodations could be secured. The Committee on jurisprudence made a careful examination of the matter and found that lodge and the Grand Master had complied with every requirement of the law governing the removal of lodges, gave its full approval to the action. North Star Lodge voiced its opposition on the floor but the report of the committee was adopted by a large majority. Thus was established the second lodge in Des Moines which has grown and prospered and is to-day the second largest lodge in the jurisdiction, while North Star No. 2, has not suffered as it continues to lead in membership.

Among the social affairs enjoyed by visiting Masons was a reception at the home of Brother John L. Thompson, a smoker at Doric Lodge and a picnic at Union Park sponsored by the Ladies of the O. E. S.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were re-elected. Brother W. J. Shepard was elected Grand Custodian.

An invitation from Doric Lodge No. 30 in East Des Moines was accepted as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

No. lodges 15; Cash on hand, General Fund, \$103.68; Endowment Fund, \$237.00.

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DORIC LODGE, EAST DES MOINES, July 11, 12, 13, 1911.

BRO. W. H. MILLIGAN, Grand Master.
BRO. T. H. STURGIS, Grand Secretary.

Persuant to the order of the last Grand Communication and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in the Hall of Doric Lodge No. 30 on the East side of the City of Des Moines at 10 A. M. on Tuesday July 11, 1911.

A roll call of lodges showed a constitutional number of lodges duly represented and the Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form. He immediately appointed his committees and then read his Annual Address. He had visited all the lodges and found the Craft in good condition. Reported the death of Right Reverend Bro. E. W. Lampton, Grand Master of Mississippi and a Bishop of the A. M. E. Church. Gave a brief outline of the origin of Negro Masonry in America. Answered several questions that were fully covered in the Code. Recommended that all candidates for the office of Grand Custodian be required to take an examination in proficiency; that the Treasurer and Secretary in Subordinate Lodges be required to give bonds. He had been unable to reach a satisfactory adjustment of the matter of territorial invasion of Iowa territory along the Mississippi river by the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Declared the Endowment Department in a healthy condition.

An amendment to the Constitution offered by Bro. C. B. Woods to limit the tenure of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and

the Grand Wardens to two consecutive terms was approved by the Committee on jurisprudence, but was defeated by the Grand Lodge, and it has never at any time put a limit on the tenure of any of its Grand Officers.

The Committee appointed to codify the laws passed by the Grand Lodge since the adoption of the Code in 1904, reported some twenty new laws and amendments, but no action was taken on the Committee's recommendation to have them printed and pasted in the Codes. If there was I have been unable to find any record or evidence that it was carried out.

The Committee on jurisprudence after a two days struggle on the floor of the Grand Lodge succeeded in having most of its report adopted. Several amendments to the Endowment Department have offered by the Committee were ordered printed in the Proceedings and action thereon deferred to the next Annual Session.

The Grand Master was asked this question; A brother being murdered, can any part of the endowment due his beneficiary be held to prosecute his murderer? Answer, No, not unless the beneficiary signs it over for that purpose.

The Grand Lodge decided it was time to change some of the officers and elected Bro. E. T. Bank, Grand Master and Bro. W. W. Gross, Grand Secretary. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Custodian were re-elected. Davenport was chosen as the place of holding the next Annual Communication.

Membership, 461. Cash on hand, General Fund \$121.46; W. & O. Fund, \$723.00.

The ability and resource displayed by Doric Lodge in the entertainment of this session of the Grand Lodge dispelled forever

all lingering doubts in the minds of any as to the wisdom of establishing the second lodge in the City of Des Moines. It sprang at once to the front rank as a progressive lodge and has furnished two Grand Masters, Bro. E. T. Banks and Bro. E. Joe Brown; and four Grand Custodians; Bro. G. Joe Brown, Bro. C. C. Johnson, Bro. Albert Gater, and Bro. Wm. Oney.

It took both intelligence and courage on the part of Grand Master Milligan to take the step he did at that time, but he lived to see and realize that no act of his during his six years as Grand Master has proven more beneficial to the advancement of progressive Masonry in Iowa. "Requiescat in peace."

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DAVENPORT, IOWA, July 9, 10, 11, 12, 1912.

BRO. E. T. BANKS, Grand Master.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Secretary.

Agreeable to the order of the last Annual Communication and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in the Hall of Hiram Lodge No. 19, at Davenport at 9 o'clock A. M. on Tuesday, July 9, 1912. A constitutional number of lodges being represented, Grand Master Banks opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, appointed his Committees and read his Annual Address.

The explanation made by Bro. T. B. Stevall of Hiram Lodge in regard to the mistake made by his lodge in arranging their program of entertainment was accepted, and the Grand Lodge by resolution decided to extend its sessions over Friday.

Grand Master Banks gave an encouraging report on the condition of the Craft as gained through his visit to all but two of the

lodges, He did not approve of the customary festivities incidental to the celebration of Saints John Days, and said so in no uncertain language. In this connection he referred to the action of some three hundred white Mason who on Dec. 27, 1910 at the suggestion of their Grand Master registered a solemn vow to censure profanity again.

He recommended that the fee for the three degrees be reduced from \$20.00 to \$15.00. This has been the price ever since.

Quite a number of amendments were offered by members and the following were adopted:

To require a doctor's certificate of good health to accompany a petition for membership. To reduce the C. C. F. C. to one member. To require the Grand Secretary to keep on hand a supply of rituals, and to obtain bids for printing the Proceedings and submit them to the Grand Lodge. He was ordered to secure copies of the Proceedings of all Annual Communications the United Grand Lodge of African Grand Lodge and Hiram Grand Lodge, have them bound in suitable volumes to be preserved in the archives of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master was authorized to appoint a Committee of three members to make a complete revision of the Code and report its work to the next Annual Session and one day (Friday) was added to the session in which to consider and adopt the revised Code.

A proposition to authorize the Endowment Department to issue to all members a policy or certificate of membership was rejected, as was the one to change the time of the election of the officers of subordinate lodges.

A public reception at the A. M. E. Church, the Memorial Services at the Baptist Church and the Public Installation at Armory Hall were well attended by the citizens of Davenport and Rock

Island.

Bro. John L. Thompson was elected Grand Master; Bro. W. H. Milligan elected Grand Treasurer; Bro. W. W. Gross re-elected Grand Secretary and Bro. A. G. Clark elected Grand Custodian. Keokuk was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

This meeting was an inspiration to the members of Hiram Lodge for they soon brought the lodge up to a high standard of efficiency and have produced some of the best informed Masons in the jurisdiction.

Membership 464. Cash on hand, General Fund, \$120.94. W & O Fund, \$772.00.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, IOWA, July 8, 9, 10, 11, 1913.

BRO. JOHN L. THOMPSON, Grand Master.
BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Secretary.

Agreeable to the act of the last Annual Communication and the provision of the Constitution, the members of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of Union Lodge No. 1, at Keokuk, Iowa at 9:30 A. M. on Tuesday, July 8, 1913. A constitutional number of lodges being duly represented, Grand Master John L. Thompson opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his Committees.

Announcement being now made of the presence of Bro. R. T. Coles, M. W. Grand Master of Masons for the State of Missouri, also Bros. Geo. W. K. Love and W. W. Fields, Grand Secretaries of the same Grand Jurisdiction, who desired to visit the Grand Lodge.

These distinguished guests were each received with honors be-

fitting their high Masonic station, and as a further mark of respect to Grand Master Coles, Bros. J. H. Shepherd, I. L. Brown and W. H. Milligan, each a Past Grand Master, were appointed a committee to escort Grand Master Coles into the Grand Lodge.

Grand Master Coles being introduced to the Grand Lodge, after greeting the Grand Lodge of Iowa on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Missouri delivered a helpful and inspiring address, remarks being also made by the visiting Grand Secretaries.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, remarks were made by Past Grand Master A. A. Bland and J. H. Shepherd, Bro. S. Joe Brown and Bro. C. F. Davis.

The Grand Master then ordered the Junior Grand Warden to call the Grand Lodge from labor until 2 o'clock of the afternoon.

At the afternoon session the Grand Master read his Annual Address. He paid an eloquent tribute to Masonry in general and to the noble Craftsmen who had successfully planted the institution in the State of Iowa. He had visited all the lodges and gave a detailed account of their condition as to members and finances. He proposed some radical changes in the law which were indorsed and embodied in the revised edition of the Code. The most important in its effect was the one to limit to one vote each all elective Past Grand Officers. It had been the law since the organization of the Grand Lodge to allow all elective Grand Officers one vote for each office to which he had been elected, thus allowing some of the Past Grand Officers as high as six votes. Another provided that the Committee on jurisprudence should be composed of all Past Grand Masters present, the oldest of which in point of service should be Chairman. Lodges were permitted to observe Saints John

Days on the Sunday preceeding the date of said days. Lodges were prohibited from receiving the petition for membership of a person known to have been convicted of murder or manslaughter. The Grand Lodge tried, convicted and expelled from Masonry, Past Grand Treasurer, H. K. Hillon for wrongfully appropriating Grand Lodge funds to his own use. The bonding company paid the deficit. A graduated scale of payments of enowment on account of new members extending over the first three years of membership was adopted. A Grand Auditor to be appointed by the Grand Master was authorized to take the place of the Finance Committee; the office of C. O. F. C. was changed to Grand Reviewer. The Office of Register was made the Assistant Grand Secretary. The recommendation for a committee to prepare a history of Negro Masonry in Iowa was not acted upon, although Bro. A. G. Clark tendered his services at that time and offered to compile such a history. The consensus of opinion was that the printed Proceedings contained all the history necessary.

A pleasing social affair was the reception given the members at Union Hall on Tuesday evening, at which a delightful program of music, recitations and addresses were enjoyed by all. Another interesting feature of the meeting was a visit to the Hydro-electric Plant and dam across the Mississippi River that had recently been completed and opened to visitors.

The last day of the session was devoted to consideration of the revised Code which was adopted, ordered printed and distributed to the lodges.

The Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected, Bro. M. O. Culbertson was elected Grand Treasurer. Buxton was chosen as the place for holding the next Grand Session.

Membership 473. Cash on hand, General Fund \$57.82. W. & O. Fund, \$541.72.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

BUXTON, IOWA, July 14, 15, 16, 1914.

BRO. JOHN L. THOMPSON, Grand Master.
BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Secretary.

In conformity with the Constitution and the resolution adopted at the last Annual Communication, the members of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Auditorum of the Y. M. C. A. Building, in Buxton, Iowa at 10:30 A. M. Tuesday, July 14, 1914.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented the Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, and appointed his Committees.

At this time Grand Master Thompson took occasion to present to the members, the Past Grand Masters who were present in the persons of Bro. A. A. Bland, Bro. John D. Reeler, Bro. W. H. Milligan and Bro. E. T. Bank. Each spoke briefly in high praise of the Organization and gave hearty encouragement to the new members, and were responded to on behalf of the Grand Lodge by Bro. A. G. Clark, Grand Custodian.

At the afternoon session a communication was received and ordered spread upon the minutes from Frederick H. Townsend, Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. extending to the members of the Grand Lodge all the privileges, convenience and accommodation of the Y. M. C. A. building and grounds.

The Grand Master then called upon the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. H. E. Williams to preside, who in turn presented the Grand Master who then read his Annual Address. This was the first time this procedure had occurred in the Iowa jurisdiction and has been generally followed ever since. The address covered in detail his years work and contained several recommendations for the improve-

ment of the Craft. He reported the serious mental condition of the Junior Grand Warden, Bro. F. C. Davis, and had appointed Bro. L. D. Lowery to serve out the term. He reported two new lodges, one at Clarinda which was warranted as Keystone No. 33, and one at Mason City, warranted Perfect Ashler No. 31, of which Past Grand Master, Bro. John D. Reeler had been appointed Worshipful Master. In company with Bro. S. Joe Brown, Senior Grand Warden, he visited the Grand Lodge of Missouri in its 47th Annual Session at St. Joe, Missouri, and was present at the laying of the corner stone of the \$100,000.00, Y. M. C. A. building in Kansas City. He recommended that the Grand Lodge acquire property and a committee was appointed to investigate the subject. He had successfully defended the Grand Lodge in a suit brought against it by the beneficiary of a deceased member of Rescue Lodge No. 25 at Omaha.

A Medical Examiner's Certificate, arranged by a committee of three doctors was adopted.

The Grand Custodian was granted an opportunity to exemplify certain parts of the Ritual over which disputes had arisen.

The Grand Secretary asked for and received definite instructions as to the collection and payment of the W. & O. Fund dues by subordinate lodges.

The usual Memorial Services were held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and a reception tendered the members at St. John's A. M. E. Church. An interesting feature of the reception was the address of welcome by Hon. John P. Reese, Superintendent of the Consolidation Coal Company, which owned the town of Buxton. The town was not incorporated and Mr. Reese as Superintendent of the Coal Company was its Chief Executive.

The Grand Auditor, upon the recommendation of the Grand Secretary, ordered that \$100.00 be taken from the Relief Fund and placed in the General Fund to cover the expenses of operating the Relief Department.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected, the last three without opposition. Cedar Rapids was chosen as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Following the election the Grand Lodge was formed in line by the Grand Marshall and led by the Buxton Band and escorted by King Solomon Commandery of Des Moines, moved over the route designated by the local committee to the Hall of Cedar Grove Lodge, where it disbanded. It had been the custom since its organization for the Grand Lodge to make a parade through the business section of the cities in which it met, but the custom was becoming obsolete and was omitted at Keokuk in 1913, and the parade at Buxton was the last. It seems to have been merely a custom for which there may have been good reasons in the early days, but it does not appear to ever have been sanctioned by rule, law or regulation, nor was it abolished by recommendation or legislation.

Membership 510. Cash on hand, General Fund, \$70.80; W. & O. \$1422.90.

TWENTY--EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, July 13, 14, 15, 1915.

BRO. JOHN L. THOMPSON, Grand Master.
BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Secretary.

On Monday afternoon July 12, as provided in the Code, a school of instruction was held under the auspices of the Grand Lodge and the particular direction of the Grand Custodian. The second and

third degrees was conferred by a special degree team selected by the Custodian. A highly interesting and instructive feature of the work was an exemplification of the Middle Chamber section of the second degree by Bro. John E. Bradford, of Hiram Lodge No. 19, acting as Senior Deacon. As a compliment to his ability and Masonic zeal the Grand Lodge elected him Senior Grand Deacon.

Conformable to the Constitution and in obedience with the action of the last Annual Communication, the officers and members of the United Grand Lodge, of Iowa assembled in Odd Fellows Hall in Cedar Rapids at 9:30 A. M. on Tuesday July 13, 1915, the guests of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17.

The W. R. Henry E. Williams, Deputy Grand Master, opened the Grand Lodge in Due Form on the Third Degree. The Grand Master was then admitted, received with honors and escorted to the Grand East. This was an innovation introduced in the opening of the Grand Lodge that has not met with favor among Bro. Thompson's successors, and has never been repeated.

At the afternoon session, the Deputy Grand Master presiding, the Grand Master presented and read his Annual Address. One cannot read the address without being impressed with the lofty ideals of the Grand Master and the humane sentiment expressed in his reference to the Great War there raging in Europe. His recommendation to create a Burial Fund in connection with the Endowment Department met with considerable opposition at first, but was finally enacted in to Law, and has since come to be regarded as the most important feature of the Department. The Grand Lodge disapproved his recommendation to exempt the members of U. D. Lodges from paying G. L. Dues. He came near wearing the "bloody shirt," when he offered the following: "I would recommend that the age of our

Iowa Grand Lodge be changed to its correct Communication, namely from the 28th Annual Communication to the 33rd for our Annual Minutes show that Iowa had a Grand Lodge since 1881, and some of you men here to-day and some of your lodges here were members of the Grand Lodge at that time. I think that the error or confusion came when the two Grand Lodges became united and not from the time when we first became a Grand Lodge." We have quoted the exact language of the recommendation, because it really contradicts itself. There was neither "error or confusion" on the part of the convention that organized the United Grand and it was corrected, dated from the time WE became a Grand Lodge. The question of perfecting African Grand Lodge (the first Iowa Grand Lodge) to which the Grand Master refers, had been the bane of contention between Grand Master Bland and Grand Master Clark for two years and was brought into the Convention by Bro. Bland and was defeated by the adoption of a substitute resolution by Bro. A. J. Harris of Hiram Grand Lodge. After the election of Bro. Geo. H. Cleggett to be Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge, the record then say: M. W. G. H. Cleggett, G. M. of the former A. G. L., and Alexander Clark, G. M. of the former H. G. L., surrendered their gavels to the M. W. United Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. for the State of Iowa and its Masonic jurisdiction, and the same were acknowledged by M. W. G. H. Geo. H. Cleggett in the name of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa."

"The former African G. L. and the former Hiram G. L. having called on and finished up their business during the adjournment of the convention, were announced closed Sine Die, and are numbered with things that were."

There does not appear to have been either "error or confusion" when this record was made. It was read on the floor of the Grand Lodge after the Committee on Jurisprudence had reported in favor of the adoption of the recommendation and it led to its defeat by a large majority. It is with no small degree of reluctance that we record this incident in this history, as its principal proponents, Grand Master Thompson and Past Grand Masters Shepard, Reeler and Milligan, who composed the Committee on Jurisprudence, have all since crossed the Bar. But it is history and was at that time vital to the peace and harmony of the organization. It had never been proposed before and has never been since.

The Burial Fund as adopted provided for the payment of \$75.00 to be used for burial purposes only, and was to take effect October 1, 1915.

The Grand Master was upheld in his ruling that a subordinate lodge could refuse to accept a visit from the Grand Custodian, in his official capacity, even if the visit was to be made without cost to the lodge.

One new lodge had been organized at Waterloo, and was warranted as St. Johns Lodge No. 35. He laid the corner stone of the Tabernacle Baptist Church at Council Bluffs.

The Committee appointed at the last session to canvass and investigate the proposition of purchasing real estate by the Grand Lodge, reported it as being impracticable at the present time.

The Grand Secretary reported that he had succeeded in securing a complete file of the Proceedings of the three Iowa Grand Lodges; also that Bro. Orange Fields, of Union Lodge No. 1, had presented to the Grand Lodge copies of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of

Missouri, from 1871 to 1879, inclusive. In making the report he said: "Early Iowa Masonry being so interwoven with the Grand Lodge of Missouri, for until 1881 and 1884, lodges in Iowa worked by authority of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, our history cannot be full and complete without a part of the history of that Grand Lodge be instuded." The Grand Lodge tendered Bro. Fields a vote of thanks for his gift. The Grand Secretary was authorized to purchase a typewriter for the office. A committee consisting of Past Grand Masters J. H. Shepard, W. H. Milligan and John D. Reeler was appointed to prepare a history of Negro Masonry in Iowa. The Constitution was amended to provide for a vote by ballot instead of a vote by lodges in selecting the place for holding the Grand Lodge.

Among the interesting and enjoyable features was a reception on Tuesday evening and visits to the Masonic Library, the Comistory Building and St. Paul's M. E. Church.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were re-elected. Bro. S. Joe Brown was elected Grand Custodian.

Ottumwa was chosen as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Membership 572. Cash on hand, General Fund, \$137.10; W. & O. Fund \$1640.20.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

OTTUMWA, July 11, 12, 13, 1916.

BRO. JOHN L. THOMPSON, Grand Master.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Secretary.

On Monday July 10, in conformity with section 23 of the Code, a School of Instruction was held in the lodge room, of Golden Star Lodge, beginning at 9 A. M. and continued through the afternoon and

evening and was in charge of the Grand Custodian, Bro. S. Joe Brown. A full report of the school is given in the Custodians Annual Report and is printed in the 1916 Proceeding. The Custodian in his year's work had held District Schools of Instruction as provided for in the Code.

Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution and the action of the last Annual Communication, the officers and members of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of Golden Star Lodge No. 4, in the City of Ottumwa, at 9:45 A. M. on Tuesday, July 11, 1916. A constitutional number of lodges being represented the Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his Committees. The remainder of the morning session was devoted to receiving and extending felicitations to the seven Past Grand Masters who were present. The Grand Master called attention to the unique and pleasing circumstance in that all save one, (Bro. James Washington) of the surviving Past Grand Masters of Iowa were in attendance, and presented each to the Grand Lodge, ordered the Grand Honors given and invited each to address the Grand Lodge. The 1916 Proceedings contains a group picture of these illustrious Craftsmen and in referring to it the Grand Secretary gives the following brief sketch:

This feature is added with the hope that it will prove attractive to all our members and in such a manner that they will become interested and at the same time better acquainted with the Masons who have been rewarded with the highest honor the fraternity can confer, some of whom really helped blaze a Masonic trail in these parts, Masons who gave abundantly of their time, talents and means to further the cause we all love, Masons who attempted and

accomplished much.

Since the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Iowa in 1881, fifteen different Masons have been elected to the office of Grand Master, of these, Page, Hilyard, Clark, Gilliam and Cleggett have "crossed the bar." Washington, while still living, having demitted, is not now a member of this jurisdiction.

In the illustration, reading right to left, are Bros. Brooks, Shepard, Bland, Reeler, Brown, Milligan, Banks, Thompson.

Bro. Brooks is the senior Past Grand Master and was the second Grand Master elected by the African Grand Lodge of Iowa, the year being 1882. He was raised in Sumner Lodge, No. 41, Burlington, G. L. of Mo., 1875.

Bro. Shepard was elected Grand Master in 1883, but perhaps is better known outside the jurisdiction on account of his service as C. C. F. C., an office he filled capably and well for many years. He was raised in North Star Lodge No. 31, Des Moines, G. L. of Mo., 1879.

Bro. Bland is the Senior Past Grand Master with regard to the length of time a Mason. He was the first Grand Secretary of the African Grand Lodge and its fourth Grand Master. He was also chosen Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge in 1895-96. He was made a Mason in Lincoln Lodge, Cairo, Ill., G. L. of Ohio, April 1866.

Bro. Reeler, sometime dubbed: "The Boy Grand Master," for the reason that he was, perhaps, the youngest Mason to be elected to the Grand East of Iowa. He was made a Mason in North Star Lodge No. 2, Des Moines, African Grand Lodge of Iowa. His election to the office of Grand Master took place in 1892.

Bro. I. L. Brown was elected 1898 and has more re-elections

to his credit than any other Past Grand Master, (six). He was raised in Eureka Lodge, No. 21, Marshalltown, 1892.

Bro. Milligan had no opposition in 1905, when he was first elected Grand Master; this perhaps, is the only instance in the history of the Grand Lodge of Iowa of a Mason being the unanimous choice of the brethren when first chosen. He served, consecutively, six years.

Bro. Banks was made a Mason in Alabama and came to North Star Lodge No. 2, Des Moines in 1888, demitted to Doric Lodge No. 30, Des Moines, 1909 and was elected Grand Master in 1911.

Bro. Thompson was raised in North Star Lodge No. 2, Des Moines in 1900, was elected Grand Master in 1912 and served four years.

PROCEEDINGS OF PAST GRAND MASTERS'
COUNCIL.

Ottumwa, Iowa, July 13th, 1916.

All living Past Grand Masters, with the exception of Past Grand Master James Washington, who is out of the State, were called and assembled in conference on the above date, with the following present: Bros. A. A. Bland, Jno. L. Brooks, J. H. Shepard, J. D. Reeler, I. L. Brown, W. H. Milligan, E. T. Banks, J. L. Thompson.

Bro. Bland called the meeting to order, and stated the needs and object of having a Past Grand Masters' Council organized, and upon motion, Bro. A. A. Bland was elected chairman, and Bro. Jno. D. Reeler, secretary of the temporary organization, and after a lengthy discussion, motion prevailed that a committee of three be appointed to draft Rules and Regulations for the government of a permanent organization. Bro. Bland appointed the following committee: Bro. J. H. Shepard, Bro. E. T. Banks and Bro. Jno. L.

Thompson, said committee to report at the next annual Grand Lodge session.

It was suggested to this committee that they name this organization, The Imperial Council of Past Grand Masters of Iowa. Upon motion the secretary was instructed to record the address of the brothers.

Bro. A. A. Bland, 1017 Main St., Keokuk, Ia.

Bro. Jno. L. Brooks, 809 So. Gertrude St., Burlington, Ia.

Bro. J. H. Shepard, 1421 Crocker St., Des Moines, Ia.

Bro. J. D. Reeler, 1631 No. Quincy Ave., Mason City, Ia.

Bro. I. L. Brown, 712 Bromley St., Marshalltown, Ia.

Bro. W. H. Milligan, Route 2, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Bro. E. T. Banks, 1046 Enos Ave., Des Moines, Ia.

Bro. J. L. Thompson, Bystander, Des Moines, Ia.

The Council then adjourned to meet the third day of the next Grand Lodge Session.

JOHN D. REELER, Secretary.

All have since "Passed the Bar" except Bro. I. L. Brown.

At the afternoon session, the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. L. D. Lowery, presiding, the Grand Master presented and read his Annual Address. He had granted a dispensation for a U. D. Lodge in Fort Dodge which was warranted as Western Star Lodge No. 35. Had arrested the warrant of Sumner Lodge No. 3, at Burlington, and suspended the members for N. P. D., but after further consultation with the members, had returned the warrant. But little new legislation was offered for consideration.

The resolution by Bro. Geo. H. Woodson to purchase and pre-

sent an apron to each of the Past Grand Masters present, was adopted and a committee appointed for that purpose.

It was also provided that on the death of a Past Grand Master, each subordinate lodge should be notified by wire.

The Grand Secretary disclosed a few weak points in the Burial Fund Department and the same was referred to a special committee, whose report was ordered printed in the proceedings and referred to the next Grand Session for final consideration.

Bro. J. H. Shepard, on behalf of the Historical Committee gave good and sufficient reason for not having a report ready and asked for an extension of time to the next Annual Communication, which was granted. Bro. Shepard was well qualified for the work he had undertaken and had his life been spared to complete it, would have given to the Masons of Iowa a complete and reliable history of the Craft in the state. On account of ill health he was unable to attend the next Annual Session and passed away on March 3, 1918. The other members never took up the work, hence, no report has ever been made to the Grand Lodge.

A change of officers seems to have been desirable, and Bro. S. Joe Brown was elected Grand Master; Bro. John D. Reeler elected Grand Treasurer, which office he held continuously for fourteen years, Bro. W. W. Gross, re-elected Grand Secretary and Bro. A. G. Clark, elected Grand Custodian.

Davenport was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Membership 605. Cash on hand, General Fund, \$247.00; W. & O. \$1861.48. Burial Fund, \$29.75.

THIRTIETH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DAVENPORT, July 9, 10, 11, 12, 1917.

BRO. S. JOE BROWN, Grand Master.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Secretary.

In accordance with section 23 of the Code, a Grand Lodge School of Instruction in charge of the Grand Custodian, was held in the Hall of Hiram Lodge No. 19, on Monday July 9, 1917, beginning at 9 A. M. and continuing through the afternoon and evening.

Davenport, Iowa July 10, 1917.

Hall of the Grand Lodge.

"Conformable to Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1, and the act of the Grand Lodge at its last Annual Communication, the representatives of the several lodges of the jurisdiction and the permanent members of M. W. United Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa and its jurisdiction assembled in the apartments provided by Hiram Lodge No. 19, and at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of this date was called to order by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master M. O. Culbertson (21) and with Past Grand Master I. L. Brown presiding, a Lodge of Master Masons was opened in due form."

Bro. J. B. Lucas (18) was called upon to invoke Divine Blessing.

The Deputy Grand Master then proceeded and opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form.

This is the Secretary's record as printed in the 1917 Proceedings. In the roll call of officers he has M. O. Culbertson (21) M. W. Grand Master, and I. L. Brown (20) Deputy Grand Master.

This record was the cause of much comment and criticism in the Masonic world at the time and not without cause. It didn't all happen that way.

This was the first time in the history of the Grand Lodge that the Grand Master was not present to open the Grand Lodge and preside therein. Grand Master S. Joe Brown had informed his Deputy that it was doubtful if he would be able to be present at the meeting and it was generally known among the members. But he was not dead and there was no vacancy in the office of Grand Master, and under the law the Deputy Grand Master succeeded to the duties of Grand Master and not the Senior Grand Warden. What really occurred was that Bro. M. O. Culbertson, the Deputy Grand Master, opened the Grand Lodge in due form, and then called upon Past Grand Master I. L. Brown, who had had seven years experience in the Grand East, to preside during the business sessions of the Annual Communication.

The Grand Master had prepared and sent to the Grand Lodge his Annual Address and it was presented and read by the Grand Secretary, Bro. W. W. Gross. It was the most complete in detail of any report ever made by a Grand Master to the Grand Lodge as no single act of the Grand Master in connection with the duties of his office was overlooked. He told in an interesting way the causes for his absence. He was located at the time in "Quarters of Co. 13, 17th U. S. Provisional Training Regiment at Fort Des Moines" in company with some twelve hundred and fifty other Negro Cadets who were taking officers training for service in the World's War. It was absolutely necessary that he be there every day and work from 5:30 A. M. till 10:45 P. M. except on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, hence, his request for relief of absence had been denied. Prior to his enlistment he had been busily engaged in caring for the demands of his office, as his list of official acts discloses.

He gave an interesting account of the meeting of the International Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries held in Chicago during the week of August 21-25, 1916, of which P. G. M. John L. Thompson was President. It had voiced a unanimous sentiment in favor of a uniform ritual among Negro Masons, and recommended the adoption of what was called the Ohio Ritual. The Grand Master recommended the adoption of this ritual by the United Grand Lodge but the question was postponed till the next Grand Session. His recommendations to create the offices of Grand Attorney and Grand Medical Examiner, and for articles of Incorporation were each rejected as impracticable and unnecessary.

He issued dispensations for two new lodges, one at Grand Island, Neb., which was warranted Boaz Lodge No. 37, and one at Hastings, Neb., warranted, Marvin Lodge No. 38. A part of his recommendations affecting the Relief and Burial Departments were enacted into law. He had arrested the warrant of Sumner Lodge No. 3, at Burlington, which was approved and the warrant revoked by the Grand Lodge.

The following action was taken by the Grand Lodge:

"All brothers in good and regular standing in their lodge who enter the Military Service of the Government during the present war, shall be exempted from all Subordinate Lodge and Grand Lodge dues during their term of service, and his or their names shall appear upon all reports and be marked, "Military Service." The Burial Fund payments were reduced from \$75.00 to \$50.00.

Bro. W. W. Gross, who had served six years as Grand Secretary was unanimously selected Grand Master; Bro. John L. Reeler re-elected Grand Secretary; Bro. Harry W. Rose elected Grand Secretary,

and Bro. C. C. Johnson elected Grand Custodian. Council Bluffs was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Session.

Membership 630. Cash on hand, General Fund \$267.88, Relief Fund \$1881.33; Burial Fund \$201.75.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, July 9, 10, 11, 1918.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Master.

BRO. HARRY W. ROSE, Grand Secretary.

On Monday July 8, 1918, as provided for in Section 23, of the Revised Code, a Grand Lodge School of Instruction was held in the Hall of Twin City Lodge No. 32, and was under the direction and supervision of the Grand Custodian, Bro. C. C. Johnson.

The Grand Custodian announced that he had issued Certificates of Proficiency, as provided by Law to the following: Bro. Wm. Walker, North Star Lodge No. 2; Bro. A. C. Clark, Maple Grove Lodge No. 16; Bro. A. C. Wolder, Eureka Lodge No. 20; Bro. Wm. Hoadley, Keystone Lodge No. 32; Bro. R. S. Taylor, Hiram Lodge No. 19; Bro. Harry W. Rose, Dubuque Lodge No. 29.

In conformity with provisions of the Constitution and act of the last Annual Communication the officers and members of M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of Twin City Lodge No. 32, in the City of Council Bluff, Iowa at 10 A. M. on Tuesday, July 9, 1918. Grand Master, W. W. Cross having ascertained a constitutional number of lodges were duly represented opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his Committees.

With the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. J. E. Bradford presiding, the Grand Master presented and read his Annual Address. It was a

clear, comprehensive presentation of the several vexed and delicate questions which had arose for solution and asked approval of the Grand Lodge in his efforts to up-hold the law and the dignity of the Organization.

He was eloquent in his review of the Great War and reviewed the part Negro Masons had taken in all the American Conflicts. He stressed the co-operation of Masons in all phases of war work as traditional of the Fraternity and instinctive of good citizenship. He discussed the advisability of the Grand Lodge purchasing Liberty Bonds and it ordered the purchase of \$480.00 in War Saving Stamps.

We believe the full official record in regard to Boas Lodge No. 37, at Grand Island, Nebraska should be preserved, hence, we reproduce it as reported by the Grand Master: *He said:*

" Soon after the last Annual Session of this Grand Lodge, in a communication I received from Most Worshipful W. W. Fields, Grand Master of Masons in Missouri, it was pointed out, that the lodge located at Grand Island, Nebraska, St. Johns No. 31, Missouri registry, now Boas No. 37, Iowa registry, was under discipline by the Grand Lodge of Missouri at the time authority was granted it to work under the Grand Lodge of Iowa. A subsequent communication contained the request that I recall the warrant issued by the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Now, the principle that Grand Lodges shall institute and complete discipline on its subordinates, is well understood and never questioned. Nor are its internal problems a subject for review by another Grand Jurisdiction. In a word, there is no court, save that of ethics sitting in its own conscience, to which a Grand Lodge may be summoned to give an account of its claims, particularly re-

specting its domestic affairs. Thus, while the succinct statement of Grand Master Fields--before quoted--is all that has been vouchsafed, and which is, indeed, sufficient, was accepted without question, I did require Boaz Lodge to make answer to the complaint. This was to dissipate all notions of harsh measures and arbitrary authority, and which I believed more closely akin to the spirit of fair play. The answer was of such as to cause me to be of the opinion that the complaint was founded in fact.

" I did not recall the warrant. There is no suggestion, so far as I have been able to discover, that power is vested in Grand Masters to recall or revoke a lodge's warrant. But there is much to prove that authoritative decision in a matter of this kind is reserved to the highest Masonic tribunal--the Grand Lodge. It will be remembered, that Grand Masters cannot grant warrants, that being a function of Grand Lodges exclusively, and it is a maxim of the law that the same means are necessary to dissolve, as to create an obligation.

" I did, however, issue an order under date of January 15th last, suspending the labor of Boaz Lodge until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. I deemed this action imperatively necessary, alike, in justice to a Sister Grand Lodge; in the interest of the regularity of Iowa Masonry; and I might also add: in view of the basic element of government at stake; viz; respect and submission to the constituted authority, which this and every other Grand Lodge has no more casual interest in seeing observed, for it would be paradoxical to deny the Grand Lodge the right to command and still retain belief in discipline.

" In reporting this act, you are not only asked to approve the

^{but} same, I submit the following recommendation which I venture to hope will receive affirmative action.

" Recommendation: Third--that the warrant of Boaz Lodge be revoked and all money by said Boaz Lodge paid to the Grand Lodge of Iowa, except the dispensation fee, be refunded, and that those only who were not members of St. Johns Lodge No. 31 (Missouri registry) be eligible for demits from the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

" This plan, sweeping though it be, seems the most wholesome solution of the problem, evincing, as it will, our purpose to adhere to universal principles of law and custom common to all minds, and which are essential to the orderly achievement of just aims.

He then said under Fraternal Relations:

" I have to report a rupture in the fraternal intercourse between the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Missouri and this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, through the inability of Grand Master W. W. Fields and I to find common ground to reach an adjustment of the complaint growing out of the matter of the lodge at Grand Island, Nebraska, which has already been treated in this report under the caption: "Boaz Lodge."

" I have stated that an order was issued on January 15th last suspending the labor of Boaz Lodge. Having become convinced that it was expedient and right to take that course, as a preliminary step to the correction of what appeared to me an error, and as an evidence of good faith on my part. For, on my responsibility as Grand Master, I had given the Grand Master assurances that I would use all endeavor to have the Grand Lodge of Iowa revoke the warrant granted Boaz Lodge at its next Annual Communication. To encompass that end earlier, I had, it is true, the alternative of convening

this Grand Lodge in Special Communication, but I could not bring myself to believe that the exigency of the situation warranted that extraordinary circumstance. The Grand Master of Missouri was promptly advised of my action in suspending the labor of Boaz Lodge and his answer was a copy of his proclamation severing fraternal relations.

"Now, I regret that this incident must reach the point of an estrangement of the two jurisdictions, with the inevitable unhappy situations, but it may be of interest to this Grand Body to know that all that is written under "Boaz Lodge" was written prior to the receipt of the notice of the break. That sets forth clearly what was your Grand Master's attitude then, and which has suffered no variation to the present. All correspondence in the matter is hereto appended for the further enlightenment of those who desire it."

On Sunday, Dec. 2, 1917, he convened the Grand Lodge in an Emergent Communication and laid the corner stone of St. Paul, A. M. E. Church, according to the ancient usage and custom of the Fraternity.

On Feb. 21, 1918, he issued a dispensation to a new lodge at Muscatine which was warranted as Pearl City Lodge No. 39, Asked for and was granted authority in case of extreme emergency, to annul or change the date for the Annual Communication. He held that a corner stone may be laid with Masonic ceremonies when placed at some corner of the structure other than the N. E. In construing "The Act to Create a Burial Fund," he held that lodges, in any sum agreed upon, may add to the amount allowed by the Grand Lodge. He convened the Grand Lodge in an Emergency Communication

at Des Moines on March 5, 1918, and conducted the Masonic Funeral Service, over the remains of Past Grand Master, Joseph H. Shepard, and again on April 8, 1918, at Keokuk, for the funeral of Past Deputy Grand Master, Orange Fields.

By resolution offered by Past Grand Master, S. Joe Brown, the beneficiaries of members who died in Military Service were prohibited from receiving benefits from the Burial Department of the Grand Lodge. The word "children" as used in the Relief Department Law was construed to include legally adopted children.

Des Moines was chosen as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected by unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge.

Membership 718. Cash on hand, General Fund \$255.27; Relief Fund, \$1877.08; Burial Fund \$143.00.

The Grand Secretary reported 20 members enrolled in Military Service.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA, July 7, 8, 9, 10, 1919.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Master.
BRO. HARRY W. ROSE, Grand Secretary.

On Monday July 7, 1919, as provided in Section 23 of the Code, a Grand Lodge School of Instruction was held under the supervision of the Grand Custodian, Bro. C. C. Johnson, beginning at 9:30 A. M. and continuing during the afternoon and evening. Instruction in the first, second and third ranks was followed by work in the third.

Agreeable to the Constitution and the act of the last Grand

Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened in the War Camp Community Service Hall in the City of Des Moines, the guest of North Star No. 2 and Doric No. 30, on Tuesday, July 3, 1919, at 9:45 A. M., and was called to order by Grand Master W. W. Cross, who proceeded and opened the Grand Lodge in Maple Form. Following the usual preliminaries the Grand Master relinquished the gavel to Deputy Grand Master, John E. Bradford and thereⁿ presented and read his Annual Address. It was instructive, pertinent and good. He reported that Grand Master, W. S. Fields of Missouri had been appeased when notified of action of the Grand Lodge in revoking the warrant of Boaz Lodge and had promptly withdrew his edict severing fraternal relations with the United Grand Lodge. He issued a dispensation to a new lodge at Grand Island, Neb., which received a warrant as True American Lodge No. 40. On Aug. 3, 1918, he deputized the Grand Custodian, Bro. C. C. Johnson to lay the corner stone of the Maple Street Baptist Church in Des Moines; and on July 6, 1919, laid the corner stone of Kyle A. M. E. Church in Des Moines. His recommendation to renumber the subordinate lodges from No. 4 consecutively to the highest number was rejected. His recommendation to place the Deputy Grand Master on the pay roll of Grand Lodge officers was approved.

Five hundred copies of the Lodge of Sorrow Service as arranged by Grand Master Cross were presented to the Grand Lodge by P. C. M. S. Joe Brown on behalf of North Star Lodge No. 2 and Doric Lodge No. 30. This service has been in use ever since.

The Grand Lodge appropriated \$25.00 to the Frederick Danglars

Home at Anacosta, Virginia.

The query, "Has the Grand Custodian, by virtue of his office, authority to open a lodge of Master Masons and confer degrees, ^{presented} provided by Bro. J. A. Wilson (30) was referred to a special committee consisting of Brothers S. Joe Brown, Geo. L. Sutes and A. G. Clark. The Committee made the following report: "We find that our Revised Code inverts the power to open lodges for the purpose of conferring degrees of Masonry on only four officers, viz: the Grand Master, the Worshipful Master and the two Wardens of subordinate lodges; and that no such authority is inverted in any other officer."

The Grand Secretary reported that 50 members were enrolled in Military Service and that two had died while in the service: Bro. Wilber C. Johnson, Maple Grove Lodge No. 16, and Solomon Williams, Dubuque Lodge No. 29. The Burial claims in both cases were allowed.

All officers except the Senior Grand Warden were re-elected by unanimous vote. Keokuk was selected as the place to hold the next Annual Communication.

Membership 787. Cash on hand, General Fund \$362.03; Relief Fund \$1488.72; Burial Fund deficit \$3.25.

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, IOWA, July 12, 13, 14, 15, 1920.

BRO. F. W. GROSS, Grand Master.

BRO. WM. H. BAILEY, Grand Secretary.

As provided in Section 23 of the Code, a Grand Lodge School of Instruction under the direction of the Grand Custodian, Bro. J. C. Johnson was conducted in the Hall of Union Lodge No. 1, beginning at 9:30 A. M. and extending through the afternoon and evening.

Work in the First, Second and Third Ranks was exemplified by degree teams selected by the Grand Custodian and was commended for its high character and efficiency.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the act of the last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall of Union Lodge No. 1, in the city of Keokuk on Tuesday, July 13, 1920 at 9:30 A. M. and there being a constitutional number of lodges represented the Grand Master W. W. Cross opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form.

With the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Geo. L. Suter, presiding, the Grand Master was presented and read his Annual Address. It is a carefully prepared, interesting and instructive document. He had visited all the lodges and was most ^{grateful} grateful with conditions as he found them. He reported the organization of a Grand Lodge for the State of Nebraska; had visited it in its first Grand Commemoration and assisted in its preliminary work; was satisfied of its regularity and asked that it be recognized as a Sovereign Grand Lodge. This was done in a formal resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge. He revived Sumner Lodge No. 3 at Burlington under its old warrant. Had issued a dispensation to a new lodge at Washington which was warranted Rough Ashler Lodge No. 41.

He had received information from Bro. Edward ^{Dakur} Aaker of Decatur Lodge No. 14 at Sioux City, that a lodge styling itself "National York Rite Masons," had been planted in Sioux City. He immediately notified the several lodges in the jurisdiction and gave instructions "to prevent if possible, by legitimate and quiet methods, a repetition of the performance in other communities of the

State." He advised as the best means to combat it was, "in addition to rigid non-intercourse, fraternally, is to educate the public concerning the utter worthlessness of this brand of so-called Masonry."

He accepted the resignation of the Junior Grand Warden, Bro. W. P. Wade of Rescue Lodge No. 25 of Omaha, Neb., and appointed Bro. W. M. Hendley of Keystone Lodge No. 23 to fill the vacancy.

On November 30, 1919, he received and accepted the resignation of Bro. Harry J. Rose, Grand Secretary, and appointed Bro. W. H. Bailey, the Deputy Grand Secretary, to fill the vacancy. Bro. Rose had found he did not have the time to devote to the work of the Secretary's office. His work for three years past had been very creditable.

Recommended that the office of Grand Reviewer be changed back to C. C. F. C; that the Secretary's office be made the agency for supplies for the use of subordinate lodges; that the Grand Secretary's salary be raised; and re-recommended that the subordinate lodges be renumbered from 4 to the highest number consecutively. All were adopted except the renumbering of the lodges. The Iowa Code provides that "No new lodge shall receive the name or number of any lodge of the ^{jurisdiction} ~~jurisdiction~~ whether extinct or otherwise." This law has been adhered to in the Iowa ^{jurisdiction} ~~jurisdiction~~ with but three exceptions: Hiram Lodge No. 19, at Davenport was given the number formerly held by Clark Lodge No. 19; Decatur Lodge No. 13 was allowed to take No. 14, formerly held by Anchor Lodge No. 14 of Minneapolis, Minn; and Albia Star Lodge No. 26 is the same name and number of a former lodge at Albia that surrendered its warrant in 1907.

The Grand Master was authorized to appoint a committee of five lawyer members to investigate the feasibility of an incorporate body and report to the next Grand Lodge. A new edition of the Code was ordered printed.

Among the distinguished visitors were Rev. Bro. I. B. Smith, C. C. F. C. of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska; Rev. Bro. S. B. Moore, Worthy Grand Patron, and Rev. Bro. J. H. Garrison, Past Worthy Grand Patron of Elects Grand Chapter O. E. S. of Iowa.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary were re-elected without opposition. Bro. John E. Bradford elected Grand Custodian.

Sioux City was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Membership 853; Cash on hand, General fund, \$416.60; Relief Fund, \$1, 394.32; Burial Fund, \$532.00; War Saving Stamps, \$442.00.

The Grand Lodge dues were raised from 50 cents to \$1.00.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

SIoux CITY, IOWA, July 11, 12, 13, 14, 1921.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Master.

BRO. GEO. L. SUTER, Grand Secretary.

On Monday, July 11, 1921, a Grand Lodge School of Instruction as provided for in Section 23 of the Code, was conducted by Bro. J. E. Bradford, Grand Custodian, during which the ritualistic work of the three degrees of Masonry was exemplified.

In conformity with the Constitution and act of the last Grand Lodge the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Hall provided by Deatur Lodge No. 14, at Sioux City, Iowa, at 10 A. M., on Tuesday, July 12, 1921, and was opened in Ample Form by Grand Master W. W. Cross.

Following the usual preliminary work the Deputy Grand Master B. J. Hack presented the Grand Master, who then read his Annual Address. It was a clear expression of the facts and details of the past year's work. Had authorized Deputy Grand Master B. J. Hack to lay the corner stone of Bethel Baptist Church at Perry, Iowa, Sept. 16, 1920. Had accepted the resignation of the Grand Secretary, Bro. W. H. Bailey, and appointed Bro. Geo. L. Suter, of Eureka Lodge No. 20, at Marshalltown, to fill the vacancy. Filial duty compelled Bro. Bailey to leave the jurisdiction and return to his former home in West Virginia. Two new lodges had been added to the roster. One at Centerville which was warranted Tuscan Lodge No. 42, and Corinthian Lodge U. D. at Fort Madison whose dispensation was continued. For good reasons had not ordered the new edition of the Code printed. Asked that the Grand Lodge of Arizona be extended recognition. Recommended the C. C. F. C. be allowed a salary of \$25.00 a year. He discussed at length the term "Clandestine Lodges" and interpreted its meaning as used in the Code. He had been unable to attend the meeting of the International Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries which was held in Cincinnati in August 1920, and in response to his request the Committee on Jurisprudence presented the following report as expressing the sentiment of the Grand Lodge.

"In regard to the recommendation of the Grand Master for a declaration by this Grand Lodge setting forth its attitude toward the International Conference of Grand Masters and referred to this committee by the committee on Grand Masters Address we recommend the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION:

Whereas there seems to have arisen some question with refer-

ence to the status and jurisdiction of the Inter-National Conference of present and Past Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries, formerly presided over by Past Grand Master, John L. Thompson of Iowa, and at present presided over by Grand Master, W. T. Wood of Alabama, be it hereby

Resolved by the Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Iowa and jurisdiction; That we recognize said Inter-National Conference as a Conference only, for social intercourse and exchange of ideas by its members, but having no jurisdiction whatsoever, neither legislative, judicial nor executive, over the various Grand Lodges which are there represented, the said Grand Lodges themselves and each of them being sovereign bodies having supreme authority, legislative, judicial and executive, over all matters of Symbolic Masonry in their respective jurisdiction. Approved.

The Committee of five lawyers appointed by the Grand Master made the following report:

REPORT OF SPECIAL LEGAL COMMITTEE

Brother S. Joe Brown (30) presented the report of the Committee on Incorporating the Grand Lodge, and on motion of Brother A. G. Clark (16) same was--

Adopted.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Wardens and members of the Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. for Iowa and Jurisdiction:

The undersigned committee of attorneys, appointed by the Grand Master, pursuant to authority vested in him by your last Grand Communication, to make a thorough and careful investigation and report on the propriety of and the possible benefits to be derived

by the incorporation of this Grand Lodge, especially in view of the existence of certain conditions referred to by the Grand Master in his 1930 Annual Address, after having obtained from the Grand Master detailed information with reference to the specific matters upon which he desired a legal opinion, submit for your consideration the following

REPORT

1st. It is the opinion of this committee, that the incorporation of this Grand Lodge would not materially assist this Grand Lodge in any efforts it might see fit to put forth to suppress the operation in this State of the organization known as "Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons."

2nd. It is, however, the opinion of this committee that should this Grand Lodge desire to become incorporated, there is little likelihood of such action meeting with any opposition from any outside source.

3rd. It is also the opinion of this committee, that the incorporation of this Grand Lodge would not effect the standing of our Relief and Burial Department before the law of the State, as this department is practically equivalent to a sick and burial benefit association, which under our State law may operate without State regulations whether incorporated or unincorporated.

Fraternally submitted,

Committee

S. Joe Brown, P. G. M. (Doric No. 30)
 John L. Thompson P. G. M. (North Star NO. 2)
 A. G. Clark P. M. (Maple Grove No. 16)
 Geo. H. Woodson P. M. (Bureka No. 20)
 Herbert R. Wright J. W. (Doric No. 30)

SUPPLEMENTARY

We the undersigned members of the Committee present at the

Grand Lodge after having been informed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, that it was his intention that we should make a recommendation, either for or against incorporation, are unanimously of the opinion that it would not be advisable to incorporate at this time.

Fraternally submitted,

Committee

S. Joe Brown, P. G. M. (Doric No. 30)
John L. Thompson, P. G. M. (North Star No. 2)
A. G. Clark, P. M. (Maple Grove No. 16)

Approved.

Resolution by R. W. D. H. Crosthwait (20) Junior Grand Warden.

"Since special and expert information on any matter is valuable, and since the Legal Committee appointed by the M. W. Grand Master has done this Grand Lodge high and meritorious service in investigating and reporting on the question of incorporating the Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge of Iowa, more especially since they have asked nor expected compensation for their services, which of itself is indicative of the fine, magnanimous spirit that characterized the Commission, to benefit and serve Masonry, of which the Grand Lodge is not unmindful; it is moved that this Grand Body tender to the Commission jointly and severally its thanks, and the Grand Secretary do, and he is, hereby directed to advise each member of the same by letter."

Resolved, That the expenses of the members of the Committee on Incorporating the Grand Lodge, incident to their attendance on this communication be at the charge of the Grand Lodge; PROVIDED, such member is not serving in some other capacity to have his expenses defrayed by the Grand Lodge.

Unanimously adopted.

The committees report was based largely upon the exhaustive

brief prepared by Bro. A. G. Clark in which he pointed out the many serious disadvantages an incorporation might inflict upon the Grand Lodge.

At the request of the Grand Master, Bro. A. G. Clark, C. C. F. C. had prepared a historical sketch of the National Grand Lodge giving its origin, workings and dissolution. It was ordered printed in the proceedings and 1000 copies printed in pamphlet form for free distribution.

All officers were re-elected.

Des Moines was the unanimous choice for holding the next Annual Communication.

Membership 1013, General Fund, \$550.78; Relief Fund \$1837.57; Burial Fund, \$486.00.

Decatur Lodge No. 14, was warranted by African Grand Lodge on July 15, 1885, and was on this occasion celebrating its 36th anniversary, and the Grand Lodge in appreciation of its generous hospitality passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved by this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Iowa A. F. & A. M. in session assembled in Sioux City the guest of Decatur Lodge No. 14, that since this is the first time in the history of Iowa Masons that this Grand Lodge ever met here, and the great reception tendered and generous hospitality shown not only by the craftsmen of this city but by Mayor Wallace M. Short and, the sisters of Harmony Chapter for the gift of flowers and all the people of Sioux City; therefore, be it resolved that this Grand Lodge extend our most hearty thanks and appreciation for the courtesies extended to us during our Grand Session here. Approved.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA, July 12, 13, 14, 15, 1922.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Master.
BRO. GEO. L. SUTER, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Lodge School of Instruction as provided for in the Code was held on Monday, July 12, 1922 and was under the direction of Grand Custodian, Bro. John E. Bradford. General instructions in the three Symbolic Degrees was given and some very accurate work done by selected degree teams.

At 10 o'clock A. M. on Tuesday, July 13, 1922, in obedience to the provisions of the Constitution and act of the last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the Auditorium of St. Paul A. M. E. Church, in the city of Des Moines, Iowa, the guest of North Star Lodge No. 2, and was called to order by Grand Master W. W. Gross. A constitutional number of lodges being represented, the Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form by the Grand Master.

Following the usual formalities the Grand Master turned the gavel over to Deputy Grand Master H. E. Williams, and then read his Annual Address.

He reported the passing on December 26, 1921, of Past Grand Master Austin A. Bland, at his home in Keokuk, Iowa after a brief illness, and gave a brief sketch of his life and Masonic career. On the occasion of his funeral on December 29, 1921, he convened the Grand Lodge in emigrant communication and conducted the last rites of the Order. Most of the Grand officers and Past Grand Masters were present.

Reorganized Albia Star Lodge No. 26 at Albia and asked that

it be permitted to retain its old name and number; asked that Corinthian Lodge at Ft. Madison be granted its warrant and number, 43. He declined to consider a proposition to institute a lodge at Ogden, Utah and one in Des Moines. He held that "Annual Sermons" were not officially recognized in the Iowa jurisdiction. The Revised edition of the Code had been printed and was ready for distribution. He had visited all the lodges.

He discussed with force and clearness the advisability as well as the practicability of curtailing the business session of the Grand Lodge by one day and extending the time of the School of Instruction one day, and presented an amendment to the Constitution embodying the place which was approved and referred to the next Grand Lodge for final action.

The Grand Lodge continued its membership in the Inter-National Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries and selected Grand Master Gross to represent it at the next meeting in Washington D. C. in August 1922.

A communication from Past Senior Grand Warden W. D. Crawford, of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18, and in response to an appeal by the Grand Secretary an offering of \$36.00 was contributed.

The Grand Treasurer was allowed compensation in the sum of \$25.00 a year.

Subordinate lodges were ordered to fill in all quarterly and annual return blanks with typewriter. All committee reports were ordered typewritten at the expense of the Grand Lodge.

Davenport was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication. The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were re-elected. Bro. Albert Gater of Doric Lodge No.

30, was elected Grand Custodian.

Membership, 1050; General Fund \$637.77; Relief Fund, \$2702.97;
Burial Fund \$993.70; War Saving Stamps \$500.00.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DAVENPORT, July 9, 10, 11, 12, 1923.

BRO. W. W. GROSS, Grand Master.

BRO. GEO. L. SUTER, Grand Secretary.

On Monday, July 9, 1923, the Grand Lodge School of Instruction was conducted by Grand Custodian Albert Gater and was in session during the day and evening.

Conformable with the provisions of the Constitution and the act of the last Grand Lodge the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in Turner Hall, the guest of Hiram Lodge No. 19, and at 9:15 A. M. on Tuesday, July 10, 1923, was called to order by the Grand Master. After ascertaining a constitutional number of lodges were duly represented Grand Master W. W. Gross opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, appointed his committees and with Deputy Grand Master John E. Bradford presiding, read his Annual Address. He discussed with his usual force and acumen matters that were of vital interest to the welfare of the Craft. He reported the death of M. W. Bro. Nelson C. Crews, Past Grand Master of Missouri. He reaffirmed his former reports on the State of the Order and made an earnest appeal for man individual actively among Masons. He discussed the relative merits of the two different methods of teaching the ritual--visitation by the Custodian or District School, but made no recommendation on the subject. He asked the Grand Lodge to adopt some equitable plan for defraying the expense of the Grand Master's visit to the

lodges. He discussed the care of Indigent Masons and recommended that some concrete plan be devised for their welfare and support. He gave an extended report of his attendance upon the meeting of the Inter-National Conference of Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries, etc., at Washington D. C. in August 1922, and for reasons fully set forth expressed the opinion, that in his judgment "the Grand Master's Conference ought to be dissolved." This was the last time the Grand Lodge has been officially represented in the Conference. He had entertained on May 30th, at his home in Keokuk, M. W. Bro. Eugene G. Lacey, Grand Master of Missouri. Recommended the Trustees be authorized to invest \$2500.00 of Relief Funds in Government Securities. He presented his valedictory, and closed with an inspiring benediction.

The special Committee on Teaching the Work reported in favor of continuing the system of visitation by the Custodian. The Chronological History of Subordinate Lodges, by Bro. A. G. Clark was ordered printed in the Proceedings and he was allowed \$25.00 in compensation. The sum of \$100.00 was contributed towards the defence of Bro. W. W. Green, a member of North Star Lodge No. 2, who was in difficulty in Greensboro, N. C.

The Constitutional Amendment passed at the last session curtailing the session to two days and increasing the School of Instruction to two days was approved and the time of meeting of the Grand Lodge fixed as the first Wednesday after the second Tuesday in July.

Bro. John E. Bradford was elected Grand Master. The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected

without opposition.

Waterloo was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION FUNERAL LODGE.

DAVENPORT, IOWA, Oct. 27, 1923.

BRO. THOMAS LIGHON, Senior Warden, Acting Grand Master.
BRO. GEO. L. SUTER, Grand Master.

Following is the official record as printed in the 1923 Proceedings:

Under the call of the Senior Grand Warden Acting Grand Master, the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa convened at the place and on the date before mentioned to pay funeral honors to M. W., Brother John E. Bradford, Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge was opened in Due Form by the Acting Grand Master, R. W., Brother Thomas Lighon (18), assisted by R. W., Brother H. E. Williams (4), Deputy Grand Master; R. W., Brother William Bell (35), as Senior Grand Warden; R. W., Brother Ross Hopkins (19), as Junior Grand Warden; R. W., Brother John D. Reeler (34), Grand Treasurer; R. W., Brother Geo. L. Suter (20), Grand Secretary; with Past Grand Officers, members of the Grand Lodge present among whom were Brother S. Joe Brown (30), P. G. M.; Brother W. W. Gross (1), P. G. M.; Brother A. W. Steppe (36), Past Junior Grand Warden; Brother A. G. Clark (16), Past Grand Custodian, together with Brothers P. E. Reeves (18); H. B. Smith (19); William Watts (41); F. D. Bland (1); A. O. Powell (39), members of Hiram and other Iowa lodges, and brethren from Moline and Rock Island, Ill. Brief eulogies were spoken by Past Grand Master S. Joe Brown and W. W. Gross.

Religious exercises were held at the Bethel A. M. E. Church with Rev. G. W. Kimble, of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, officiating, assisted by the local clergy.

And afterwards the remains were borne to Oakdale Cemetery, escorted by the Tri Cities Commandery, Knights Templar and a large concourse of Master Masons, where Masonic burial took place, conducted by Past Grand Master F. W. Gross.

The Grand Lodge returned to the place of assembly and was closed in Due Form

THOMAS LICHON, Act. Grand Master.

GEO. L. SUTER, Grand Secretary.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

WATERLOO, IOWA, July 7, 8, 9, 10, 1924.

BRO. THOMAS LICHON, Senior Grand Warden, Acting Grand Master.

BRO. GEO. L. SUTER, Grand Secretary.

On Monday and Tuesday, July 7 and 8, 1924, the first two day School of Instruction was conducted by Bro. Albert Gater, Grand Custodian. The School was well attended and the work done testified to the wisdom of devoting an extra day to ritualistic instruction.

In compliance with the Constitution and the action of the last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa, convened in the K. C. Hall which had been provided by St. Johns Lodge No. 35 at Waterloo, on Wednesday, July 9, 1924, at 9:15 A. M. and was called to order by the Senior Grand Warden, Bro. Thomas Lichon, Acting Grand Master, who appointed Bro. H. L. Black, of Rough Ashler Lodge No. 41, to act as

Senior Grand Warden. After ascertaining that a constitutional number of lodges were duly represented he opened the Grand Lodge in Due Form, appointed his committees and with the Deputy Grand Master Bro. H. E. Williams presiding, read his Annual Address. He spoke in words of tenderness of Grand Master Bradford and the great loss his death had been to the Craft. He had endeavored to since the responsibilities and carry forward the duties devolving upon him by the death of the Grand Master. His record shows he did perform those duties with much credit to himself and satisfaction the the Craft. He had organized and dispensated a lodge at Valley Junction, Iowa, which was warranted Cedar Valley Lodge No. 44. Had laid three corner stones: Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Cedar Rapids; Bethel A. M. E. Church, in Des Moines and St. Johns A. M. E. Church in Haydock. He reported the laying of the corner stone of Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Haydock on July 5th by Deputy Grand Master H. E. Williams acting under a dispensation from Grand Master J. E. Bradford. He had visited most of the lodges and reported conditions satisfactory.

Some changes were made in the laws regulating the payment of dues and in the method of paying claims against the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary, Bro. Geo. L. Suter, who was employed as Chief Engineer at the pumping station of the Marshalltown Waterworks, was called home on the first day of the session, and Bro. F. S. Johnson was appointed to take his place.

The Burial Service arranged by a special committee was adopted and ordered printed.

Rev. Bro. I. B. Smith, C. C. F. C. of the Grand Lodge of Neb-

raska was again present and extended greetings from his Grand Lodge and delivered the Memorial Address at the Lodge of Sorrow.

The law providing for a two day business session of the Grand Lodge went into effect at this Communication and the ease and general satisfaction with which the business was transacted proved beyond a doubt the feasibility of the experiment.

Council Bluffs was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Bro. A. G. Clark was elected Grand Master.

Bro. J. D. Reeler re-elected Grand Treasurer.

Bro. F. S. Johnson elected Grand Secretary.

Bro. Wm. Bell, elected Grand Custodian.

Membership 1075; General Fund \$700.22; Relief Fund \$1928.22; Burial Fund, \$1867.08; Government Securities, \$2,000.00; Balance due from Geo. L. Suter, \$198.99; Total \$6,595.54.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, July 13, 14, 15, 16, 1925.

BRO. ALEXANDER G. CLARK, Grand Master.

BRO. F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

On Monday and Tuesday, July 13 and 14, 1925 the Grand Lodge School of Instruction was conducted by the Grand Custodian at which the three degrees of Masonry were conferred upon a candidate furnished by Twin City Lodge. The school was well attended by Masters and Wardens of the Subordinate lodge who took much interest and gave close attention to the work and instruction given.

In compliance with the Constitution and act of the last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand

Lodge of Iowa assembled in the hall provided by Twin City Lodge No. 32, in the city of Council Bluffs at 9:30 A. M. on Wednesday, July 15, 1925, and was called to order by Grand Master, A. G. Clark. After ascertaining that a constitutional number of lodges were represented the Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his committee.

The Grand Master ruled that owing to the change restricting the business session to two days, that all proposition for new legislation or amendments to the Code, must be presented in writing and referred to the proper committee before the close of the morning session on the first day, and gave an opportunity at that time for presenting the same.

M. W. Bro. Chas. W. Dickinson, Grand Master and R. W. Bro. W. P. Wade, ^{Deputy Grand Master} of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, were admitted, received with honors and escorted to the Grand East.

The Deputy Grand Master, Bro. C. C. Johnson was called to preside while the Grand Master read his Annual Address. He reported the sudden death of Past Grand Master E. T. Banks at his home in Des Moines on January 13, 1925, and was present at the funeral and conducted the Masonic service on January 16th. Had constituted and delivered the warrant of Cedar Valley Lodge No. 44 in the town of Valley Junction and had for good reasons granted the lodge permission to move to the city of Des Moines. Had visited most of the lodges and reported the Craft in fine condition. He reported the Relief Department to be functioning with easy regularity and promptness, and advised it "be let alone." Had refused to lay corner stones in old buildings being repaired. Had been

in correspondence with F. C. M. Walker Williams of Minnesota regarding his proposal for a joint Masonic Home by Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa, but no definite plan had been agreed upon. Was the guest of Grand Master T. H. Samuels of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois at the ceremonies of laying the Corner Stone of their \$250,000.00 Masonic Temple in Chicago on October 12, 1894 and also visit at the Grand Lodge then in session. Was the guest of Pearl City Lodge No. 39 at Muscatine on the occasion of their St. John Day celebration. Reported that the balance due the Grand Lodge by Bro. Geo. L. Suter had been satisfactorily adjusted and promptly paid.

The Grand Lodge ordered the ^{bonds} bonds of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary doubled in amount.

The Grand Master was allowed a salary of \$50.00 and the Grand Secretary \$100.00.

The recommendation of the Grand Master to allow a Past Grand Masters railroad fare and per diem was defeated. ^{all}

The following resolution was passed:

(BY THE COMMITTEE ON GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS)

Whereas, From the Annual Address of the Grand Master, we learn that a considerable portion of the funds of Electa Grand Chapter O. E. S., for Iowa and jurisdiction, are unavailable through the failure of the institution in which its funds were kept. And

Whereas, The Grand Master has stated that a duty devolves upon the Grand Lodge at this time to put its words into deeds by making substantial provision for the Grand Chapter to meet any contingency and has recommended the placing of funds at its disposal for use in case of emergency. It is therefore,

Ordered, That the trustees of the Grand Lodge be and they are hereby authorized and directed to loan Electa Grand Chapter O. E. S., any moneys of the Grand Lodge not otherwise employed, in sums not to exceed One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars at any one time; the total amount of such loans not to exceed Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars in any one year, which shall bear interest at the rate of four (4) per cent per annum, the same shall be for the use of Electa Grand Chapter in meeting claims against its Endowment Department, for which the said Electa Grand Chapter shall not have sufficient funds at the time; application for such loans shall be made to the Grand Master signed by the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary of Electa Grand Chapter.

The resolution by P. G. M. I. L. Brown to create a Sinking Fund by increasing the Grand Lodge dues, for the purpose of establishing a Masonic Home was approved with slight changes and final action deferred until the next Grand Lodge. The recommendation of Perfect Ashler Lodge No. 34 for the restoration of Archie L. Summers was approved.

Several propositions designed to fix the compensation of the Grand Master and Grand Custodian when visiting the lodges were rejected as being either impracticable or unconstitutional.

Cedar Rapids was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected.

Membership, 1031; General Fund, \$731.26; Relief Fund

\$2,695.58; Burial Fund, \$2,261.01; Government Securities \$2,000.00
Total \$7,470.70.

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, July 12, 13, 14, 15, 1926.

BRO. A. G. CLARK, Grand Master.
BRO. F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

On Monday and Tuesday, July 12 and 13, the Grand Lodge School of Instruction was conducted by Bro. Wm. Bell, Grand Custodian. At the afternoon session on Tuesday, by request of the Grand Master, the stations were filled by the Grand Officers and work in the Second Rank demonstrated. During the second section of the degree the Deputy Grand Master occupied the East while the Grand Custodian filled the Senior Deacon's place.

Complying with the provisions of the Constitution and act of the last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the hall provided by Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at 9:30 A. M. on Wednesday, July 14, 1926, and were called to order by Grand Master A. G. Clark.

There being a constitutional number of lodges represented the Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in ample form and appointed his committees. The Past Grand Masters present were presented to the Grand Lodge. Several resolutions were offered and referred to proper committees.

The hour having arrived for the Grand Master's Address, Deputy Grand Master M. A. Askew was called to preside while Grand Master Clark read his Annual Address.

He referred to the splendid record of Mt. Olive Lodge during

the forty-seven years it had functioned, having entertained the Grand Lodge four times, and was the lodge home of his father, Past Grand Master, Alexander Clark at the time of his death. He reported the death of Past Deputy Grand Master Major O. ^LGubertson, of McNeil Lodge No. 21, at his home in Clinton on Nov. 5, 1925, and spoke of his splendid Masonic record. Was not notified in time to attend his funeral. Reported the financial condition of Electa Grand Chapter, O. E. S. had not become ^{im}paired during the past year and no application for loans had been made. Had visited most of the lodges. In company with the Junior Grand Warden, Bro. J. W. Young, and Past Senior Grand Warden, Bro. R. S. Taylor, he had visited Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois in its 59th Annual Communication in Rock Island, Ill. on Thursday Oct. 15, 1925. He was the guest of Grand Master Fred W. Dabney of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, during the week of August 23-29, 1925, while in attendance at the 27th annual meeting of the National ^{Educational} Executives Congress in Kansas City, Mo.,

The Grand Lodge approved his recommendation to create a Charity Fund to be administered by the Grand Trustees; and one to add the words "Prince Hall Affiliation" to the title of the Grand Lodge. The amendment to create a Board of Custodians to consist of all Past Grand Masters was ^{ratified} ~~resisted~~. The amendment offered by Past Grand Master I. L. Brown to create a Masonic Home Fund failed of ratification. Three of the Grand Master's decisions were upheld. The one "Holding that a member of the Iowa jurisdiction residing in a foreign jurisdiction, whose lodge becomes defunct, may place his demit in any lodge in the Iowa jurisdiction" was overruled.

Recognized by appropriate resolution the Grand Lodge of *Wisconsin* ~~Rheissouain~~. A resolution to participate in the International Conference at Boston, Mass., during the week of August 26, 1926, was laid on the table. The Board of Trustees was directed to investigate the advisability of investing funds of the Grand Lodge in the stock of the Fraternal Temple Association of Des Moines.

The Grand Secretary was authorized to purchase an adding machine, and his form for a diploma and traveling card was approved.

Ottumwa was selected as the place of holding the next Annual Communication.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were re-elected. Bro. Henry B. Smith, of Hiram Lodge No. 19, was elected Grand Custodian.

Membership 1016; General Fund \$927.57; Relief Fund \$3,617.33; Burial Fund \$3,015.26; Government Securities \$2,500.00; Total \$10,060.16.

FORTIETH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

OTTUMWA, IOWA, July 11, 12, 13, 14, 1927.

BRO. A. G. CLARK, Grand Master.

BRO. F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

The time on Monday and Tuesday, July 11 and 12, was devoted to instruction in the Grand Lodge ^{School} of instruction and besides the ritualistic work instruction was given in the Burial Service and other ^{Monetary} ~~non-ritualistic~~ work. The School was in charge of the Grand Custodian Bro. H. B. Smith.

Complying with the Constitution and act of the last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa, (Prince Hall Affiliation) assembled in the hall provided by

Golden Star Lodge No. 4, in the city of Ottumwa, Iowa, on Wednesday, July 13, 1927, and at 9:30 A. M. was called to order by Grand Master, A. O. Clark.

A roll call of lodges showed 20 of the 24 lodges duly represented and the Grand Master proceeded and opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his committees. Several resolutions were presented and referred to proper committees. At the appointed hour the Grand Master surrendered the gavel to the Deputy Grand Master, M. F. Askew and then read his Annual Address. He referred to the fact that Organized Masonry among Negroes had existed in Iowa for sixty-one, and that the United Grand Lodge had now served the Craft with "pleasure and profit" for forty years, and then said: "Looking backward over its forty years of fraternalism; one may well be proud of its founders, its history, its progress and its achievements, for Iowa Masonry and the "Iowa Idea" is being commented upon and commended in all our sister jurisdictions."

He reported the death at his home in Burlington, Iowa, on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1927, of Iowa's Senior Past Grand Master, M. W. Brother John L. Brooks. He attended the funeral but was unable to remain after the religious services in the church, and deputized Past Grand Master W. W. Gross to conduct the Masonic Service at the grave. He attended the funeral of Past Junior Grand Warden Chas. B. Woods in Des Moines on Jan. 27, 1927, and on April 10, 1927, conducted the funeral of Past Junior Grand Warden Zachariah A. Taylor, at Ottumwa. Bro. Taylor was a charter member of the Grand Lodge and had been present at nearly every Annual Communication.

He had visited most of the lodges. Was the guest of the Grand Custodian on Christmas Day. Was the guest of Hiram Lodge No. 19 on Sunday, June 19 in the observance of St. John Day. Had visited the new Masonic Home at Rock Island, and after thorough investigation expressed the opinion that "as an economical proposition; a home would be a failure in Iowa." During the week of Sept. 6, 1926 had entertained Bro. Thomas Bass, of Mexico, Mo., Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

Recommended that the Relief and Burial Department Law be printed in the Proceedings and that a member who had neither wife or minor children be allowed to name his beneficiary. The amendment to the Constitution to add the words "Prince Hall Affiliation" to the title was ratified. The Trustees were authorized to loan \$2,000 to the Fraternal Temple Association with proper security. A resolution affecting the tenure of the office of Grand Master, and one to raise the salary of the Grand ^{Secretary} ~~Master~~ were ruled out of order on the ground that all amendments to the Code must be presented before noon of the first day. A resolution to change the time of holding the Grand Lodge from July to September failed of approval.

The committee on Grand Master's Address offered the following:

"Your Committee believes the history of this Grand Lodge should be compiled, and in view of that fact we recommend that Bro. A. G. Clark be requested to begin immediately to compile such a history and submit it to this Grand Lodge for its approval. Respectfully submitted,"

S. Joe Brown (30)
A. R. Joyce (17)
W. W. Cross (1)

Grand Master Clark accepted, and said, "he would compile the history of the Iowa Grand Lodge as best he could."

This is the authority under which this history has been compiled.

Burlington was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Bro. H. E. Williams was elected Grand Master; the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected.

A committee was appointed to confer with the allied Masonic Bodies and Electa Grand Chapter, O. E. S. regarding the advisability of all holding their Annual Sessions ^{at} the same ^{time} within the same city.

Membership 1006; General Fund \$919.48; Relief Fund \$4,256.83; Burial Fund, \$3,478.76; Charity Fund \$227.57; Government Securities \$2,500.00; Total \$11,381.64.

Grand Master Clark accepted, and said, he would compile the history of the Iowa Grand Lodge as best he could.

This is the authority under which this history has been compiled.

Burlington was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Bro. H. E. Williams was elected Grand Master; the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected.

A committee was appointed to confer with the allied Masonic Bodies and Electa Grand Chapter, O. E. S. regarding the advisability of all holding their Annual Sessions ^{at} the same ^{time} within the same city.

The Grand Secretary, Bro. F. S. Johnson made the following statement in his report which will be of interest to all members of the Masonic Fraternity:

My appeal for the missing numbers of our Minutes to be filed in the great Masonic library at Cedar Rapids, I am pleased to report, have all been supplied and sent to Mr. C. C. Hunt, Grand Secretary of Iowa, whose letter of acceptance I am attaching to this report.

I take this opportunity to thank Past Grand Masters S. Joe Brown, W. W. Gross and A. G. Clark and Bro. French D. Bland of Union Lodge No. 1, for their assistance and contributions.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 6, 1927.

F. S. Johnson, Gr. Sec.,
 United Grand Lodge of Iowa,
 Keokuk, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I want to thank you kindly for your letter of July 5, and for copies of your Grand Lodge Proceedings which you stated you were sending to me and which have come duly to hand. We are indeed glad to have these to make our set of your Proceedings complete and now that they are complete, we will have them nicely bound. This had not been done previous to this time as the years were not complete and we disliked to go to the expense of binding until we had all of the numbers.

Again thanking you, and with kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

C. C. HUNT, Grand Secretary.

The Iowa jurisdiction of Prince Hall Masons is the only one that has a complete set of its official Proceedings in the Iowa Masonic Library.

Membership 1006; General Fund \$919.48; Relief Fund \$4,255.83; Burial Fund, \$3,478.76; Charity Fund \$227.57; Government Securities \$2,500.00; Total \$11,381.64.

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, July 9, 10, 11, 12, 1928.

BRO. HENRY E. WILLIAMS, Grand Master.
BRO. F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

The usual Grand Lodge School of Instruction was held on Monday and Tuesday, July 9 and 10, under the management and direction of the Grand Custodian, Bro. Henry B. Smith. One of the interesting and instructive features of the school was the lecture and demonstration of the Burial Service by P. G. M. W. W. Gross.

Complying with the Constitution and act of the last Grand

Lodge, the officers and members of the United Grand Lodge of Iowa, assembled in the hall provided by Sumner Lodge No. 3, at Burlington at 9:30 A. M. on Wednesday July 11, 1928, and were called to order by Grand Master Henry E. Williams. The roll call of lodges showed 23 of the 24 lodges duly represented. Following the usual ^uroutine business, Grand Master Williams opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his committees. The Deputy Grand Master, Bro. R. S. Taylor was called to preside while the Grand Master read his Annual Address. It is a well prepared document, both for the sentiment expressed and the careful consideration given to the details of the office. He made no regular official visit, but was able to report the Craft in normal condition. He reported twenty-three deaths during the year, the largest number during one year since the organization. He reported the death of M. W. Bro. C. C. Johnson, Grand Master of South Carolina, who had served continuously in that office for twenty-eight years. He made no special recommendations. His official acts and decisions were approved except the one in which he convened a lodge on Sunday for official business. He commented the new Grand Charity Fund and expressed the belief that the appropriations had been wisely and worthily bestowed.

For good and sufficient reasons Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18, at Haydock was exempted from payment of the Relief and Burial dues for July and October, 1928. A resolution to change time of holding the Annual Session from July to June failed of endorsement as did one to limit the term of Grand Master to two consecutive years.

A motion prevailed that P. G. M. A. G. Clark be requested to

have three type-written copies of the "History of Iowa Masonry" made and presented to the Grand Lodge with his report, and that he be allowed a contingent fee not to exceed one hundred dollars.

Some interesting facts concerning the early history of Iowa Masonry were related in short talks by Past Grand Masters S. Joe Brown, John D. Reeler, W. H. Milligan, John L. Thompson and W. W. Gross. Bro. Gross in closing made an earnest appeal to the older Masons to put in writing incidents that should be preserved and see that they were brought to the attention of Bro. Clark. We regret to say that nothing of that character has ever been sent to the writer, and since that meeting the voices of Milligan, Thompson and Reeler have been hushed forever in Eternal Sleep.

Waterloo was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were re-elected. Bro. Wm. Oney was elected Grand Custodian.

Membership 939; General Fund, \$1,421.81; Relief Fund \$3,959.83; Burial Fund \$3,057.76; Charity Fund \$372.05; Government Securities \$2,500.00; Total \$11,311.45.

No satisfactory arrangements had been made for the loan of \$2,000.00 to the Fraternal Temple Association of Des Moines.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION---FUNERAL LODGE.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., Aug. 5, 1928.

Upon the call of Grand Master H. E. Williams, the M. W. United Grand Lodge (Prince Hall Affiliation) for Iowa and Jurisdiction convened upon the above date at 1:30 P. M., for the purpose of paying funeral honors to Bro. William Henry Milligan, Past

Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form by Grand Master H. E. Williams with the assistance of Brother N. L. Black, (41) as Senior Grand Warden; Bro. Geo. Ashby, (17) as Junior Grand Warden; F. S. Johnson, G. Secy.; J. W. Lacy, (35) as Senior Grand Deacon; W. C. Buice, (44) as Junior Grand Deacon; H. L. Powell, (17) as Senior Grand Steward; Reuben Ford, (17) Junior Grand Steward; Rev. A. Ford, (17) as Grand Chaplain; WM. Green, (17) Grand Tyler; J. B. Nelson, (17) as Grand Marshal.

There were also present many members of the Grand Lodge among whom were P. G. M., A. G. Clark, P. G. M., W. W. Gross, P. G. M., J. L. Thompson; Senior Grand Warden, H. A. Martin; Past Masters: E. L. Dimitry (2), B. N. Hyde (2), Chas. Davis (4), W. C. Buice (44), Jas. Rhoads (2), J. W. Lacy (35), Wm. Houghton (35), R. G. Potter (35); also many members of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17 and other Lodges far and near.

The funeral precession moved from the Hall of Mt. Olive Lodge to Bethel A. M. E. Church where the body lay in state. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. S. B. Washington assisted by Rev. Hackley, P. E., and other local ministers.

Silver Leaf Chapter O. E. S., attended in a body as Brother Milligan was the organizer and first Grand Patron of the Iowa Grand Chapter O. E. S.

The church was banked with the many beautiful floral tokens of respect and sympathy; many friends were unable to get into the church, so numerous were Brother Milligan's neighbors and friends.

Afterwards the body was borne to Oak Hill Cemetery, escorted by the Grand Lodge, Mt. Olive Lodge and Masons from many other Lod-

ges.

The Masonic Burial^{Service} was conducted in a deeply impressive manner by Past Grand Master, W. W. Gross (1). (This was the request of Brother Milligan expressed no later than the Grand Lodge Session less than a month ago.)

The Grand Lodge returned to the place of assembly, Mt. Olive Lodge room, where eulogies were spoken by Past Grand Master, A. G. Clark, J. L. Thompson, W. W. Gross and P. G. W., N. L. Black.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in Ample Form.

H. E. WILLIAMS, Grand Master.

F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

WATERLOO, IOWA, July 8, 9, 10, 11, 1929.

BRO. HENRY E. WILLIAMS, Grand Master.
BRO. F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

The regular two days Grand Lodge School of Instruction was conducted by the Grand Custodian, Bro. Wm. Oney and was well attended by the Worshipful Masters of the subordinate lodges as well as the officers of the Grand Lodge. Ritulistic work in the three degrees was exemplified by degree teams selected by the Grand Custodian. "The Degree Team" was the subject of an interesting lecture by Past Grand Custodian, Bro. Henry B. Smith. The Junior Grand Warden, Bro. Henry A. Martin gave a lecture on the Principles of Masonry, and Past Grand Custodian, Wm. Bell exemplified in an interesting and able manner the Burial Service.

In accordance with the Constitution and the provisions of the last Grand Lodge the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the well appointed K. C. Hall

which had been provided for their use by St. Johns Lodge No. 36, in the city of Waterloo, Iowa, at 9:30 A. M. on ~~Tuesday~~^{Wednesday}, July 10, 1929, and was called to order by Grand Master Henry E. Williams.

A roll call of lodges showed 18 of the 23 lodges represented and the Grand Master proceeded to open the Grand Lodge in Ample Form and appointed his committees.

The following Past Grand Masters were presented and welcomed by the Craft; J. D. Reeler, I. L. Brown, John L. Thompson, S. Joe Brown, W. W. Gross and A. G. Clark.

Brother W. D. Crawford of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18, one of the few remaining charter members and its third Grand Treasurer, was presented and delivered some interesting memories of the early days. Bro. Robert Johnson of Maple Grove Lodge No. 16, a familiar figure in the Grand Lodge in its earlier days ~~and~~^{who} had served as Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Senior and Junior Grand Warden was presented and given a hearty welcome.

Grand Master Williams surrendered the gavel to his Deputy Bro. H. B. Smith who presided during the reading of his Annual Address. It is an interesting document and discusses many subjects of vital interest to the Craft. He gives in detail the record of the year's work and answers a number of questions that should never have been asked, as they are fully covered in the Code.

His principal recommendations were for the establishment of a Masonic Home, for the organization of a Boys Department and for the liberalization of the law governing Limits. This latter became necessary in order to protect the membership rights of members of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18, many of whom were forced to

leave the jurisdiction in order to obtain employment. On Aug. 14, 1928, he arrested the warrant of Twin City Lodge No. 32 at Council Bluffs for delinquency in payment of Grand Lodge dues. The warrant was restored to this lodge on payment of more than half of its indebtedness and a promise to pay the balance.

A resolution by Bro. B. N. Hyde to reduce the time of holding the School of Instruction to one day was rejected.

Bro. A. G. Clark, Historian, outlined the work he had done and presented three typewritten copies of the History of Negro Masonry in Iowa. It was referred to a committee consisting of Past Grand Masters W. W. Gross, S. Joe Brown and John L. Thompson for review. The Committee recommended that the Grand Lodge accept the work and acquire all rights in its absolute ownership. A rising vote of thanks was given Bro. Clark and a similar honor extended to Bro. F. D. Bland and P. G. M. John D. Reeler for contributions they had made in the way of valuable records.

The Trustees reported four members were receiving aid from the Grand Charity Fund, and that more time be granted the Fraternal Temple Association to complete its arrangements for loan, and asked permission to invest \$2,500.00 more in government securities.

The Board of Custodians approved the adoption of the Revised edition of the Ritual as recommended by the Grand Custodian.

A cablegram was received from Past Senior Grand Warden D. N. Crosthwait, ^{under} ~~in~~ date of London, England, July 11, 1929 in which he expressed "Greetings and Best Wishes."

The session as a whole was one of the best. The reports of the Grand Officers and the Committees were received and acted upon

without extended argument and harmony prevailed at all times.

A joint invitation from North Star Lodge No. 2, Doric Lodge No. 30 and Cedar Valley Lodge No. 44 to hold the next Annual Communication in Des Moines was accepted without opposition.

The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were all re-elected.

Membership 787. The Grand Auditor reported the following balances as of July 11, 1929: General Fund \$1,243.41; Relief Fund, \$5,116.33; Burial Fund, \$4,214.26; Charity Fund, \$329.40; Total, \$10,903.40.

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA, July 7, 8, 9, 10.

BRO. H. E. WILLIAMS, Grand Master.
BRO. F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

The regular two-day School of Instruction under the direction of Wm. Oney, Grand Custodian, was held during Monday and Tuesday, July 7 and 8, 1930. The ritulistic ^{work} was ably presented by well trained degree teams and the Monitorial work demonstrated by P. G. M. S. Joe Brown and Bro. J. W. Rhodes, W. M. of North Star Lodge No. 2.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and act of the last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the auditorium of St. Paul A. M. E. Church in the city of Des Moines on Wednesday, July 9, 1930, at 9:30 A. M., the guest of North Star No. 2, Doric No. 30 and Cedar Valley No. 44 and was called to order by R. W. Deputy Grand Master Henry B. Smith. The official roll call showed all

Grand Officers present except the Grand Treasurer, Bro. John D. Reeler, who was critically ^{ill} at his home in Mason City, Bro. Branham N. Hyde, of North Star Lodge NO. 2, was appointed acting Grand Treasurer during the session. Eighteen lodges were represented.

By orders of the Grand Master, the R. W. Deputy Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge in Due Form and the committees appointed by the Grand Master were announced by the Deputy Grand Secretary.

^{This} The unusual procedure in the Grand Lodge was done to avoid delay. The Grand Master at that time was in conference with the Grand Secretary and acting Grand Treasurer, and did not appear in the Grand Lodge until time for reading his Annual Address. The address is carefully prepared and discloses an active as well as a thoughtful administration of the duties of his office. He was confronted with some unique and with all unpleasant situations, but he met them with firmness and the spirit of charity. He arrested the jewell of the Worshipful Master of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17, for misappropriating funds of the Relief and Burial Departments which came into his hands for distribution. He approved the consolidation of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 17, at Haydock, and Albia Star Lodge No. 26, at Albia, to be located at Albia under the name of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 17. His recommendation to change the method of paying Burial Claims was rejected.

The Grand Lodge ordered all claims to benefactories on account of embezzlement on the part of the Worshipful Masters of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17, be paid.

All lodges in arrears of dues were allowed ninety days in which to pay up.

The Committee to which the manuscript prepared by Bro. A. G.

Clark had been referred for review, reported that they had each read the same. They approved the work, but recommended some slight change in the numbering and arranging ^{ment of} the chapter. The Committee also presented estimate on the cost of printing 500 copies. As the history was not completed, Bro. Clark was instructed to complete the work as he had originally outlined it and turn the manuscript over to the Committee 60 days before the meeting of the Grand Lodge.

The Trustees recommended that the Grand Lodge consider the purchase of a home, and presented some concrete facts and figures relative to the cost and maintainance of such a home.

During the afternoon session on Thursday, Past Grand Master John L. Thompson, who had been seriously ill during the past year was able to visit the Grand Lodge for a short time. In spite of his weakened condition he addressed the Grand Lodge in a cheerful manner, and encouraged the Craft to carry on.

By unanimous vote Cedar Rapids was selected as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

The Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Custodian were re-elected. Bro. N. L. Black of Rough Ashler Lodge No. 41, was elected Grand Treasurer.

Membership, 804. Total cash balance \$10,187.78. The Auditor's report is not itemized as to the several funds of the Grand Lodge.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION. FUNERAL LODGE

Des Moines, Iowa, July 25, 1930.

Upon call of Grand Master H. E. Williams, the M. W. United Grand Lodge (Prince Hall Affiliation) for Iowa and Jurisdiction

convened upon the above date at 12 m. for the purpose of paying funeral honors to Bro. John L. Thompson, Past Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form by Grand Master H. E. Williams, Senior Grand Warden Horace Spencer, Junior Grand Warden, W. E. Sample, N. L. Black, Grand Treasurer; F. S. Johnson, Grand Secretary. Grand Custodian, Wm. Oney and members of North Star, Doric and Cedar Valley Lodges of Des Moines.

There were also present Past Grand Masters S. Joe Brown (30), W. W. Gross (1), A. G. Clark (16), Past Grand Wardens H. A. Martin (29), A. R. Joyce (17), Mansfield Askew (14), also many members of Lodges far and near.

The funeral procession in charge of Grand Marshal J. W. Rhoads (2), moved at 1 p. m. from North Star Hall to St. Paul A. M. E. church where the body lay in state.

SERVICES AT ST. PAUL CHURCH

The service was held at St. Paul A. M. E. church, where Grand Master Thompson had made his last public address to the 43rd annual communication of the Grand Lodge just a little more than one week before his passing but at which time he was so weak that he had to be supported by two brethren during the three minutes that he stood on the rostrum.

The vast auditorium was well filled with members of the Grand Lodge and of practically every subordinate lodge of the state; a large delegation from both the grand and several subordinate chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which he was a past grand patron, which delegation included both the grand matron, Mrs. Maud M. Brewton, of Mason City, and the grand worthy patron,

Mr. Thomas Lighons of Albia, also Past Grand Matron Georgia B. Cheatham of Waterloo and Past Grand Patron M. F. Askew of Sioux City.

FOUR DELIVER EULOGIES

The service contained no sermon, but consisted of four brief eulogies upon the four phases of life work in which the deceased was most active, viz: "Thompson As a Business and Professional Man," by Atty. H. R. Wright, representing the Iowa Negro Bar association, of which he was a past president; "Thompson AS a Community Worker," by Mrs. Lillian Edmunds, executive secretary of the Community Center, in which he had conducted for more than ten years the only Negro troop of Boy Scouts in the city; "Thompson AS a Fraternal Leader," by Past Grand Master A. G. Clark and Past Grand Master S. Joe Brown, and "Thompson As a Churchman," by Rev. G. W. Robinson, pastor of Corinthian Baptist church of which his only daughter, Mrs. Enola Thompson-Clark, is a member.

Musical numbers were rendered by a chorus consisting of the combined choirs of St. Paul and Corinthian churches, under the direction of Prof. F. G. Goggins of the Corinthian church, with solos contributed by Mr. Sumerville.

The resolutions being too numerous to be read, were only announced, giving the name of the sender or organization represented by it.

BOY SCOUTS IMPRESSIVE

Troop 59 of Boy Scouts, which was organized by Mr. Thompson and directed by him either as scoutmaster or a committee chairman up to the time of his passing, were present and stood at attention while present Scoutmaster S. A. Walker read their resolution; after

which Rev. W. E. Guy, who acted as master of ceremonies, turned the service over to the United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten, of which deceased was worthy master at the time of his passing, and they performed their ritualistic burial service; after which the service was turned over to Grand Master Williams, who presented Past Grand Master W. W. Gross, who in a most impressive manner conducted the ritualistic burial service of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Following the ceremonies the procession was formed for the sad trip to the cemetery, the King Solomon commandery of Knights Templar, No. 2, of which deceased was a past commander, acting as active and the past grand masters as honorary pall bearers.

BURIED AT WOODLAND

Interment was made in Woodland cemetery alongside his half brother, Past Grand Master J. H. Shepard, and the Grand Lodge returned to the hall, where another symposium of eulogies were indulged in, led by Grand Master Williams and Past Grand Master Brown, and participated in by practically every one present, the burden of each of which was that Past Grand Master Thompson had lived an exemplary Christian and Masonic life and that the desire of the speaker was to try to emulate his most worthy example.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form.

H. E. WILLIAMS, Grand Master.

F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.