

1870

Des Moines Iowa

1938

North Star Lodge No 2, A. F. A. M. Celebrates its
Sixty-eighth Anniversary, October 6th 1938

North Star Lodge owes its existence to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Missouri through the entergetic efforts of Grand Master Alexander Clark, who was one of the greatest organizers of Negro Masonic lodges in the early days of the Missouri Grand Lodge.

The Fifth annual communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Missouri convened in the City of Memphis, Tenn., July 3, 1871. We quote the following from the Grand Master's address: - "During the past ~~year~~ Masonic year, I have granted dispensations to eight new lodges." "October 6th 1870 North Star Lodge, U. D. Des Moines, Iowa. - A. W. Carter, W. M. J. C. Carter, S. W.; S. B. Smith, J. W., and eight others." From this statement it will be noted that North Star lodge started upon its Masonic career Oct 6, 1870 with a membership of eleven loyal determined Master Masons.

Tuesday July 4, 1871, we note that the Grand Lodge Committee, on Dispensations and Charters, recommended that North Star lodge

be warranted. On motion, their report was received and adopted. Thus North Star lodge ceased to be a lodge under dispensation and became a warranted lodge, under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Missouri and its jurisdiction. To be known as North Star Lodge No 31, Des Moines, Iowa.

I cannot help at this time from pausing to survey the jurisdiction of Missouri.

In the year 1871, Missouri claimed as its jurisdiction the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. It had lodges located in each of the above named states.

At this Grand session (1871) North Star lodge reported the following officers and Members:—
 A. W. Carter, W. M.; J. S. Carter, S. W., S. B. Smith, J. W.,
 A. Brown, Treasurer, W. A. Birney Sec. Members—
 Peter Bell, G. Carter, T. I. Carter, George Carter, Edward Davidson, Harrison Deberg, Morton Essex, Jefferson Logan, George Pindexter and Samuel Sikes. A total of 15 members.

North Star was represented by proxy. The Grand lodge choose Keokuk Iowa as the

place for holding its next Grand Session.

I will not attempt to review our existence under Missouri for the next eight or ten years, but suffice it to say that the following notice is self explanatory:-

"Notice - To all Master Masons in good standing in the state of Iowa, who are working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mo.

We, the following M.M. and P.M. of the state of Iowa, believing it to be economy and for the good of the Craft in the state of Iowa, do hereby sign a call for a convention of all M.M. who are in good standing now in Iowa, working under the Grand Lodge of Missouri and its jurisdiction, to convene in Des Moines on the 12th of Oct., 1880."

(Signed) G. W. Black, Clark #6, A Bland, York #8, Grange Fields #41, A A Pierce, Cedar Rapids, F D Mott #6 N. Dorset, Red Oak #79, E C Thomas, Cedar Rapids, J. E. Gillam, Star #51, J D Bush #50 John Brooks #41.

This meeting was held and adjourned to meet in Ottumwa Dec 20, 1880, at which time it was decided to hold another meeting in Keokuk, Tuesday August 9, 1881.

X The following lodges were duly represented

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on above date:-

Sumner #41, Burlington; John H Jones #91,
Council Bluffs; Golden Star lodge #80, Ottumwa,
North Star #31, Des Moines and York & Keokuk.

Out of this convention grew the organization
of the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of
Iowa, with John Page, a member of North Star,
as its first Grand Master. North Star at this
time received the number (2) being the
second oldest lodge of this organization.

North Star had at this time a membership of 21,
With Bros George H Cleggitt, W.M. Joseph H Shepard,
S.W.; W. H Milligan, J.W.; James E Todd, Treasurer
C S Stewart, Secretary. Members:- John Allen,
M H Bell, Peter Bell, James Coalson, Wm Coalson,
Ben Duffey, Wm Ewing, Geo Johnson, H H Lewis,
Joseph Lewis, John Page, Ed Taylor Thomas Williams
Alex Wilburn and Walter White.

This should have been, and perhaps was
the happiest moment of this organization.
But the following years were made very
unpleasant by the attitude of the Grand
Lodge of Missouri.

Finally on the 26th day of August 1884,,
a Past Grand Master of Missouri

proceeded to organize another Grand Lodge in Iowa, to be known as Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa

This Grand Lodge set up a lodge in East Des Moines, designated as North Star Lodge No 1.

These two Grand Lodges continued for the next two or three years before they made up their minds that for the good of Masonry in Iowa, it would be wise to consolidate.

So in July 1887, the two Grand Lodges met and formed a union to be known as the Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge of Iowa

In this consolidation North Star Lodge No. 2 was honored by having one of its members elected Grand Master, - Bro George H Cleggett

North Star Lodge No 1 received the Number (15). We note by the records that our esteemed and honored brother, (Alexander Wilburn) who now presides in the East, served as Worshipful Master of North Star Lodge No 15, during

6/
years 1888 and 1889. This lodge surrendered its warrant in the month of May 1892.

From 1881 to 1938. North Star lodge No 2 has received the following honors from the Grand Lodge:-

Six Grand Masters:- John Page, Joseph H Shepard, George H Cleggitt John D Reeler, John L Thompson, Branham N Hyde

Five Deputy Grand Masters:- Joseph H Shepard E. T. Banks, Wm Coalson, B. J. Hack John W Rhodes

Seven Senior Grand Wardens:- W T Ewing, E T Banks J Frank Blagburn, H E Jacobs, Branham N Hyde, E F Dimetry, John W Rhodes

Five Junior Grand Wardens:- Wm Coalson E T Banks J Frank Blagburn, C B Woods, B J Hack

Four Grand Treasurers:- H H Lewis, E T Banks Wm Coalson, Branham N Hyde.

Four Grand Secretaries:- George H Cleggitt, John D. Reeler, M N Bell, J Frank Blagburn

In the past 68 years North Star lodge has elected 34 Worshipful Master

A great deal more could be said in regards to the history of North Star

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lodge and the Grand Lodge, but time
will not permit.

In closing I compliment North Star
lodge on having furnished the Grand
Lodge, to date, with its first and last
Grand Master.

H E Jacobs P. G. S. W.

1870

North Star Lodge, A. M. S.

Sixty eighth Anniversary

North Star Lodge, A. M. S.

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of