

HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE MINUTES OF

MANKATO LODGE

No. 12

A. F. and A. M.

MANKATO, MINN.



Compiled by
ADOLPH RINDELAUB

1902 - 1956

PREFACE

During the year, 1856, eight Masonic Brethren, who had come to settle in Mankato, conceived the idea of starting a Masonic Lodge. These eight Brethren had come here from many places in the U.S.A. They believed in the future of this community, which consisted then of a little collection of log cabins, and a few frail frame structures. Consequently, these eight Brethren, early in 1856, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, which had been formed in 1853, for a dispensation to form a Lodge. On March 1, 1856, this petition was granted by the then Grand Master, A. T. C. Pierson, and on January 6, 1857, a permanent charter was granted, and the Lodge was designated as Mankato Lodge No. 12.

Brother Charles Chapman, who wrote a history of the Lodge from its beginning up to 1902, vividly tells us of the early struggles and joys of the Brethren. These hardships often seemed insurmountable, especially when they were deep in debt on account of a venture in promoting a cemetery. During all these unfavorable circumstances, the Lodge survived, because there always were some good and true Brethren to lend a helping hand.

This is not an attempt to recapitulate the events of the early years, but to continue where Brother Chapman left off—at the close of 1901.

For those who have not read Brother Chapman's history, it may be interesting to recall some of the early happenings. During 1862, under the administration of Brother Hanna as Worshipful Master, a vigorous attempt was made to collect delinquent dues by accepting negotiable notes from the Brethren. The by-laws were amended in 1862 creating the offices of Stewards, Chaplain and Marshal.

The great event of 1862, however, was the Sioux massacre which took the lives of nearly a thousand white settlers, leaving a large part of the country west of Mankato depopulated. Many of the survivors sought refuge in Mankato. At night the men stood watch while women and children were gathered in the Masonic building and another stone building. Sick persons also were taken to the Masonic hall and the lodge room became a hospital.

After the Indians were subdued about four hundred of them were brought as prisoners to Mankato, and 38 of the leaders executed by hanging.

While the Sioux massacre was a disaster to the State, it brought a measure of prosperity to the Lodge. Many of the soldiers stationed in Mankato to guard the prisoners were desirous of joining the Fraternity. As the Grand Master had given a special dispensation to waive the usual requirements of residence, many of the soldiers were accepted. This dispensation was later declared illegal under Masonic law and can be explained only by the patriotic fervor of the hour.

During the year 1863 ninety-five degrees were conferred. In this year also Blue Earth Chapter No. 7, Royal Arch Masons, was formed and received its charter. In 1865 Mankato Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar, was organized and received its charter from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States as there was no Grand Commandery yet in Minnesota.

In 1867 Brother Chapman gave lectures on the history of architecture and Brother Alpheus Spor lectured on Christianity and Masonry. A new carpet, adorned with Masonic emblems, was purchased at the cost of \$105. The Royal Arch Chapter contracted to pay the Lodge \$50 a year as rent and the Commandery contracted for the use of the lodge rooms for \$25 annually.

In these pioneer days apparently there were many non-affiliated Masons in Minnesota. In 1869 the Grand Master ordered all non-affiliates to apply to some lodge or be suspended. This order was repealed in 1871 as it had embittered many non-affiliated Brethren against those Lodges that tried to enforce the rule.

Brother Robert Morris, a Past Grand Master of Kentucky and a noted Masonic scholar, made a visit to Mankato in September of 1871 and delivered four lectures in the Presbyterian Church and at Higgins Hall. He also gave two private lectures, one to Master Masons only, and the other to Masons, their wives, sisters and daughters. Brother Morris, who was the founder of the Order of the Eastern Star, returned to Mankato in December, 1871, and organized Cereal Chapter No. 2. The first Eastern Star Chapter in Minnesota, at Hokah, has long since dropped from existence making Cereal Chapter No. 2 the oldest in Minnesota.

In the spring of 1874 Mankato Masons proved their Masonic charity by sending \$82 to the victims of the Mississippi river flood in Louisiana.

On September 27, 1874, Mankato Lodge chartered a special train to attend the funeral of Past Grand Master Arnes at Minneapolis, and this turned out to be a rather harrassing event. The train left Mankato at six o'clock in the morning. The Brethren marched from the depot in Minneapolis to the home of the deceased Grand Master. After both religious and Knights Templar services they marched to a distant cemetery for services at the grave and then the procession moved back to its starting place. The Mankato delegation, tired and hungry, arrived at the Minneapolis depot at 4:30 p. m. They had had nothing to eat since early morning, and were assured there would be time in St. Paul for refreshments. But, alas, when they returned to the St. Paul depot the last train for Mankato had already gone so they had to remain in St. Paul over night.

Notable also were the happenings of 1877, when a committee was appointed to look into the acquiring of a new Lodge Hall. The committee recommended to accept a proposition tendered by Messrs. Sullivan and Terry to enlarge a building which they owned at our present location at Hickory and Second Street, size 22 x 60. The plan was to enlarge the building to 52 x 90, and Mankato Lodge No. 12 to take a lease on the second floor for ninety-nine years, for the sum of \$4,600.00. The Lodge adopted this offer on March 23, 1877, and the building was completed by December of that year. On December 19th, the hall was dedicated, with solemn ceremonies, by the Grand Master, G. B. Cooley. Mankato Commandery No. 4 served the banquet, the tickets for which were \$5.00 each. Brother Chapman lists the menu for this occasion, which was indeed sumptuous. After paying the band and other expenses, the profits were only \$30.00.

Masters of Mankato Lodge No. 12

1857 to 1901

George Maxfield	1857-1858
Lewis Branson	1859-1860
Wm. S. Sargent	1861
Andrew Hanna	1862-1867
John A. Willard	1868
E. D. B. Porter	1869-1870
C. A. Chapman	1871-1873

S. F. Barney	1874
Amos D. Seward	1875
H. McMurtrie	1876-1877
David B. Owen	1878
C. A. Chapman	1878
Thomas Bennett	1880-1881
C. A. Chapman	1882-1883
Wm. S. Howe	1884-1885
J. W. Andrews	1886-1889
Geo. W. Mead	1890-1893
Clark Keysor	1894-1896
H. McMurtrie	1897
Jean A. Flittie	1898
P. L. Vranizan	1899
Judson W. Day	1900
Wm. F. Jewson	1901

1902

Gustav Widell, W. M. Adolph O. Eberhart, S. W.
C. L. Kennedy, J. W. Harry Paddock, Sec'y
C. A. Chapman, Treas.

During the year, 1902, several memorable events took place. On July 2, Mankato Lodge laid the corner stone of the Public Library. The library board had invited the Lodge to perform the ceremony. At the laying of the corner stone, Grand Master A. D. Countryman officiated, with most of the members of the Grand Lodge present. Besides that, about 300 Masons within a radius of forty miles also attended. Previous to the ceremony a parade was formed, consisting of Masons, Knights Templar, Ladies of the Eastern Star, members of the City Government, the library board, and others, including a few of the original settlers of the city. Copies of four Mankato newspapers, history of the library board, and a history of Mankato Lodge No. 12, by C. A. Chapman, and inscribed by the Master and Secretary, were placed in the corner stone.

After the ceremonies, the Brethren retired to the Masonic Hall where excellent refreshments were served by the Ladies of Cereal Chapter No. 2, to 400 people, at a cost of \$140.00.

On July 26th, a stated communication summons had been sent out for a Masonic trial to all members. Those who did not show up had to have a valid excuse. At the trial, the Brother was found guilty, and expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonry.

It seems that at this time a Brother could buy a life membership for about \$20.00. In the light of the present, this appears to be very optimistic, as that amount would pay the per capita tax for only eight years. The fees then were \$35.00, and dues, \$2.00 per year. It is worthy of note that the Worshipful Master of 1902, Gustaf Widell, became Grand Master in 1907, and the Senior Warden became Lieutenant Governor, and after the death of Governor Johnson, Brother Eberhart became Governor of Minnesota. He was re-elected to that high office for at least two more terms. Gustaf Widell later in his life was elected to the Minnesota Senate, and served Blue Earth County faithfully for several terms in that body. In private life, he was a contractor, and as such

built the Main Street Bridge, and also the Blue Earth River Bridge in West Mankato.

Membership 152. Secretary's salary \$25.00.

1903

A. O. Eberhart, W. M. S. B. Wilson, S. W.
C. L. Kennedy, Jr. W. Harry Paddock, Sec'y
C. A. Chapman, Treas.

During the winter months, there were complaints of the stench in the Hall, originating from a horse barn next door. A committee was appointed to investigate the nuisance, and abate the matter if possible. After investigation, the committee recommended that the remedy should wait till spring, and then get the wall plastered on the barn side.

The lesser lights were placed on the north side of the Hall to conform with a ruling by the Board of Custodians. A telephone was installed in the Hall, with the Lodge, Chapter, Commandery, and Star each paying one-fourth of the cost. Also, a directory of the time when the several bodies held their meetings was placed in the various hotels of the city. This, too, was paid for by the different bodies. A railing was placed on both sides of the stairway, and three dozen fans were purchased for the use of the Brethren during hot weather—price 90 cents. On November 14, a formal resolution was adopted to create a building fund by placing \$100.00 out of the treasury in such a fund, and adding to it whenever possible. The owners of the building approached the Lodge with a proposition to either buy the whole building, or state what the Lodge would take for their lease. A committee was appointed to look into this. The Worshipful Master spoke about a proposition submitted by the Grand Master as to a Masonic Home, to which Mankato Lodge No. 12 was opposed at that time. The Lodge was very active, had many special communications, and enjoyed many visitors.

Membership at end of year, 164.

1904

S. B. Wilson, W. M. F. L. Searing, S. W.
J. Bates, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
Harry Paddock, Sec'y

The above officers were installed at an open ceremony on December 23, 1903. On January 9, 1904, the committee appointed to look into the matter of new quarters reported. Up to that time, it had been the custom of the several bodies to bear the expenses of running the hall jointly. A committee was appointed to investigate the acquiring the first floor of the building then occupied by McCormick-Deering. The owners were the Shepard Estate and the agent was Col. Wm. Johnson. The committee found that the owner would sell for \$6,825.00. The Lodge offered \$4,000.00. After many meetings, and many discussions pro and con, it seems that the purchase of the property finally was accomplished in September of 1904, for \$5,500.00 Under date of September 9, we find a memorandum of a cash payment of the following funds to the owner: Mankato Lodge Building Fund, \$102.00; Blue Earth Chapter note at 5 per cent, \$300.00; Mankato Commandery note, \$204.00; Life Membership Funds, \$894.00; total \$1,500.00. Secretary Paddock resigned on June 25, and Brother Jewson was elected as Secretary on July 9th.

The McCormick-Deering Company was given a lease on the first floor of the building at \$50.00 per month, running from December 31, 1904. Cards

were ordered printed to inform a visitor's home Lodge of his visit to Mankato Lodge. Nineteen hundred and four was indeed a busy year. At least one and some times two special meetings a month were held to transact the work of the Lodge. The two Secretaries were allowed \$7.00 and \$8.00 respectively—total, \$15.00. The Tyler was paid \$10.00 per month. Brother Sam B. Wilson, who was Master during 1904 and 1905, was a successful lawyer of our city. He served the State of Minnesota as Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court later on in his life.

1905

S. B. Wilson, W. M. F. L. Searing, S. W.
F. W. Bates, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.

W. F. Jewson, Sec'y

This year did not start out with such a rush of work as had the previous year. At the February communication, Brother C. L. Kennedy reported about the nuisance of the adjoining barn, and stated that the committee had not been able to do anything about it. The Worshipful Master remarked about the progress of the past, and stated that he would like to see something promoted for the social interests of the fraternity. After several suggestions, the Worshipful Master invited all the Brethren for a social evening at his residence on the evening of Washington's Birthday, February 22.

At the March 25 communication, Brother C. A. Chapman remarked that this date was his 40th anniversary as a Mason, of which 36 years had been as an officer, and the last 23 years as Treasurer. The Lodge extended to him thanks and congratulations for his faithful services. After the meeting on July 22, a fire was discovered in the lower story. It was fortunate that several Brothers had stayed after the meeting and discovered the fire. The fire department was called and appeared almost immediately. Total damage was held to \$193.86, which was covered by insurance.

1906

F. L. Searing, W. M. F. W. Bates, Sr. W.
J. S. Young, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.

Wm. F. Jewson, Sec'y

At the first stated communication, the Secretary's salary was raised to \$50.00 per year. On March 10, the fiftieth anniversary of Mankato Lodge was observed, with some of the Grand Lodge officers present. After a very short business meeting, the Lodge was closed at 8 o'clock, and opened for the historic observance of the semi-centennial anniversary. The Secretary states in the minutes that the celebration was a most enjoyable one, full of oratory, reminiscences, music and fellowship. The Masonic quartet was composed of Brothers John R. Thomas, D. N. Griffith, Evan Hughes, and A. O. Eberhart. A banquet was served to 205 Brethren at a cost of \$51.25. During 1906, many interesting discussions on various Masonic usages were held for the education and entertainment of the Brethren. Meetings were held on the second and fourth Saturdays.

1907

F. L. Searing, W. M. John A. Hancock, Sr. W.
Harry Footner, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.

Ben T. Monson, Sec'y

On February 9, permission was given to Cereal Chapter No. 2 to install a gas range in the kitchen. At the Grand Lodge communication, Brother Gustaf

Widell was elected Grand Master of Masons of Minnesota. A reception was planned to honor him and Brother Eberhart February 15. There is no record of this meeting.

On May 11, the Worshipful Master was reimbursed by the Lodge, \$6.00, which he had given to a smooth-talking imposter.

The Lodge had many petitions during the year. Most of the petitioners were elected, and some rejected. One applicant received his first degree on December 28, 1907, his second on January 3, 1908, and his third on January 6, 1908.

1908

F. L. Searing, W. M. Harry Footner, Sr. W.
J. J. Flachsenhar, Jr. W. Wm. F. Jewson, Sec'y
C. A. Chapman, Treas.

The by-laws were amended as follows: Fees, \$45.00, and dues shall be \$3.00 per year, which may be paid in semi-annual installments if so preferred. In May, a communication from the chairman of Washington Masonic Memorial Association was received soliciting funds for the George Washington Memorial Temple. The Lodge contributed \$12.00. This was for the beautiful Temple, which has been erected in Alexandria, Virginia—which American Masonry can well be proud of.

The janitor, Brother E. R. Kennedy, asked to be relieved of his duties, but the Lodge voted him a raise to \$15.00 per month, which he accepted.

Nineteen-hundred and eight was the year of the typhoid epidemic in Mankato. It seems that Mankato Lodge No. 12 was fortunate, as there were no deaths reported on account of it, and only one illness. As the city water seems to have been polluted, it was the task of the stewards, among their many other duties, to provide the Brethren with sanitary water.

1909

F. W. Bates, W. M. J. M. McConnell, Sr. W.
J. J. Flachsenhar, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
B. T. Monson, Sec'y

On Sunday, January 24, the Lodge was opened for the purpose of attending the funeral of a Brother, with fifty-four members participating. March 13, a loving cup was purchased for the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Brother and Mrs. C. A. Chapman for \$18.50—which expense was shared equally by the four bodies. April 14, after some discussion, the Lodge purchased a membership in the Masonic Home Society for \$50.00.

A special communication on May 17, held for the purpose of conferring the third degree on two candidates, must have been a rather long session. The Lodge was opened at 7:30 P. M., and the work completed at 11:30 P. M. After that, they retired to the dining room for a banquet with Brother Dr. J. W. Andrews as toastmaster. Almost one hundred Brethren were present, including over thirty visitors. On November 19, a school of instruction was held by Grand Master H. M. Tusler, which lasted from 2:30 until 10:30, with recess for a dinner. At the end of the year, the by-laws were changed to hold stated communications on the first and third Friday instead of Saturdays.

1910

Harry Footner, W. M. J. M. McConnell, Sr. W.
D. E. Walker, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
E. P. Rutan, Sec'y

Electric lights were installed in the dining room in February, at a cost of \$16.40. During the month of May, an Armenian Brother, John Taminosian, visited the Lodge. It looks as if he was in the U. S. on behalf of the Christian people of Armenia, who then suffered severe hardships under fanatical Mohammedan Turks. Brother Keysor spoke about Haley's comet, which could be seen in the northwest sky. Second Street was paved at a cost of \$736.00 to the Lodge. The International Harvester Company moved to their own building on Front and Spring Streets and the lower floor was leased to the Hugo Shirt Company at \$10.00 per month.

1911

J. M. McConnell, W. M. D. E. Walker, Sr. W.
C. C. Owen, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
E. P. Rutan, Sec'y

Under the files with stated and special communications were the order in 1911. The Stewards, who it seems had charge of the building then, were making recommendations about necessary repairs or improvements. For special occasions music was supplied by a Masonic Trio, consisting of Brothers C. C. Owen, J. N. Griffith, and A. O. Scott. These Brethren received much praise for their efforts. Also well liked were lectures given on several evenings by Brother J. H. Davidson bearing on the history of the third degree, and by Brother S. B. Wilson on Morganism. Later, in the early summer, Brother A. O. Eberhart, then Grand Master of Minnesota, and at another communication, Brother Gustaf Widell spoke on an interesting subject to the Brethren. Hickory Street was paved in 1911, and the Lodge's assessment was \$367.64.

1912

J. M. McConnell, W. M. D. E. Walker, S. W.
C. C. Kennedy, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
E. W. Bates, Sec'y

The new year started with a special communication for the purpose of conferring the Third degree with about seventy-five present. Brother J. H. Davidson of Ancient Landmark Lodge of St. Paul, had been engaged as the speaker of the evening, for which he received a fee of \$15.00.

The stewards were appointed to buy an electric letter "G" of the same form as the one suspended over the Worshipful Master's chair. There were many petitions during the spring and summer.

A committee of five was appointed to arrange for a Thanksgiving day entertainment and invite the ladies of the Eastern Star. The party was held on November 27.

1913

D. E. Walker, W. M. C. L. Kennedy, Sr. W.
E. A. Fisher, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
E. W. Bates, Sec'y

A Washington Birthday Party was held on February 22. The by-laws were amended to read, "That any candidate who fails to appear for initiation or advancement within twelve months, unless excused for proper cause, must bring a new petition and again pass the ordeal of the ballot."

The livery barn next to the Temple, which had been a nuisance for many years, was bought for \$4,000.00.

The number of visitors which came for third degree work is remarkable. On April 12, there were over forty, and on October 3, they had almost sixty

with Masons from New Hampshire, Vermont, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Rhode Island, and South Dakota jurisdiction, and of course many from other Minnesota Lodges.

Nineteen-hundred and thirteen was indeed a fruitful year—many petitions were received. On some special communication nights, they conferred the E. A. Degree on some candidates, and then opened on the F. C. Degree to confer the work on a group who had taken their E. A. Degree previously.

Through all this, there were some shining examples of Masonic charity—for instance, the Worshipful Master was refunded \$25.00, which he had given in the name of the Lodge for flood sufferers. Taxes, amounting to \$22.88, were paid by the Lodge for the widow of a former member. The Lodge paid for the rigs for the funeral, \$17.50, for a deceased Brother. Brother D. E. Walker, who was Worshipful Master is still with us, can indeed be proud of the Masonic spirit prevalent. When the sisters of the Eastern Star sent a bill for the dinner of October 3, for \$33.93, the Lodge allowed them \$55.00. On December 19, the Lodge, after its stated communication, enjoyed musical entertainment and a lecture by the Past Grand Orator, Bishop Edsall.

Membership at the end of the year, 205.

1914

D. E. Walker, W. M.

C. L. Kennedy, Sr. W.

F. A. Fisher, Jr. W.

C. A. Chapman, Treas.

F. W. Bates, Sec'y

On January 16, eight petitions for the degrees were received. Also the same evening, it was suggested to appoint a committee of fifteen to look into the matter of acquiring a new building which was duly adopted. Again, on February 6, eight petitions were received. A Washington Birthday party was held on February 23.

Nothing definite was accomplished with regards to a new building. One Brother Bradley, had suggested that the Lodge erect a four story structure, size 95 x 120. As this entailed considerable expense, a ways and means committee was appointed. Up to the end of the year, there was no report from this committee. On November 30, there was a special communication for the purpose of conferring the third degree. The Masonic trio, consisting of Brothers Jones, Hughes and Griffiths, rendered music during the work. Over 100 Brethren were present. Eight veteran Masons, who averaged more than fifty years of service, were honored, and took part in the work with Brother Clark Keyser in the chair.

1915

J. M. McConnell, W. M.

C. H. Nerbovig, Sr. W.

W. P. Scherer, Jr. W.

C. A. Chapman, Treas.

F. W. Bates, Sec'y

The ladies of the Eastern Star were invited for a party which was held on Washington's Birthday. On February 5, the Junior Warden, W. P. Scherer, brought charges against a member of Mankato Lodge No. 12 who had been convicted of grand larceny in Illinois. A trial committee was appointed, which set the trial for April 16. Summons were sent to all the members. On April 16, 125 Brethren answered the call with fifty-five absent. Of those absent, thirty-two had sent excuses and were excused. All visitors were asked to retire, and the Lodge voted 124 to 1 for indefinite suspension—eighty-two had voted for expulsion. The Secretary was ordered to notify the Grand Secretary of this action.

Many petitions for affiliation were received from former members of Joppa Lodge No. 76 of Minnesota Lake, which had disbanded. The salary of the Secretary was raised to \$100.000 per year, and the Tyler to \$25.00 per month. The by-laws were amended to raise the dues to \$6.00 per year.

On June 11, at a special communication of the Lodge, the Grand Master and his officers were received with grand honors. Later on in the evening, Brother Wildell was presented with a Past Grand Master jewel. The balance of the mortgage owed to the Sheppard Estate on the building was paid on December 1.

Brother George Pass, as architect for the building committee, had prepared a sketch with the object of remodeling the building at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00. A motion was made and carried that the committee go ahead with the plans at a cost not exceeding the above amount. The finance committee was authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the needed loans. A letter was received from The Mankato Elks Lodge inviting them to hold their meetings in the Elks Hall during the remodeling.

1916

J. M. McConnell, W. M. C. H. Nerbovig, Sr. W.
 W. P. Scherer, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
 F. W. Bates, Sec'y.

Brother J. S. Young, of the University of Minnesota, was engaged as a Washington Birthday speaker.

Bids were received for the remodeling the Temple from the following firms:

General Construction, J. B. Nelson	\$11,455
Plumbing, heating, vent.	3,469
Electricity, Mankato Elec. Co.	518

\$15,442

As this was higher than expected, there was much discussion about it. The bids were finally accepted by a vote of 38-8. The committee that had looked for a meeting place during the construction reported, and it was decided that the Lodge would meet on the first and third Saturdays at the Odd Fellow's Hall for \$325.00 per year. The Master was authorized to secure a dispensation from the Grand Master for transfer of the hall. It was then moved and accepted to vacate the building by April 1. That was indeed a busy month in March. Meetings were held on the third, the seventh, the ninth, the seventeenth, the twentieth, the twenty-seventh the twenty-ninth and thirtieth, and April 1. This was quite a rush, and a dozen candidates were initiated, passed and raised during the month.

The square and compass, the letter "G", and the date was put in the cornerstone. Of course, as everyone know who had ever built anything, there usually are necessary extras which become evident as the work moves along. There was \$215 extra for the kitchen, \$96 for an extra wall to make two rooms instead of one in a certain part upstairs, \$75 for plastering the old south wall, and \$574 for architect's fees. Then there was the question of furnishings. On furnishing, the Eastern Star was invited to appoint a committee to work with the Lodge Committee. On August 5, a motion was carried that the Grand Master be informed that we move back into our own building by September 1 —meetings to be held the first and third Fridays. The most urgently needed furniture and fixtures were bought, and the upstairs painted, which amounted to another \$2,300. On December 8, the Lodge room of the new Masonic

Temple was dedicated with solemn ceremonies. All the elected Grand officers, and some of the appointed ones were present. The Grand Master, in his address, congratulated Mankato Lodge No. 12 on their new and beautiful home. Six of the Brethren were present who had witnessed the dedication of the old temple on December 19, 1877.

1917

C. H. Nerbovig, W. M. C. W. Coon, Sr. W.
W. A. Sanborn, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
F. W. Bates, Sec'y.

On January 5, a letter was received from the Grand Master, requesting that funds be solicited from each member for the Minnesota Masonic Home. The annual rent for the hall was set at \$250 for Blue Earth Chapter, and \$200 for Mankato Commandary. It was voted that the committee on charity be empowered to aid a certain sick and destitute Brother up to \$100. The Secretary's salary was raised to \$100 per year starting February 1—the Custodian and Tyler to receive \$35 per month. A study club was formed, and several papers were read on different evenings for the benefit of the Brethren. It was moved and approved that all Brethren who joined the armed forces be kept in good standing until the end of the war. A committee, which had been appointed to do something for the Brothers who served our country, recommended that a Christmas gift be sent to all of them. In order to carry on this work, a donation of \$1.00 was asked of each member.

1918

J. J. Flachsenhar, W. M. W. A. Sanborn, Sr. W.
W. M. Taylor, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
F. W. Bates, Sec'y.

Many letters were received from Brethren in the armed forces and it was ordered that these be kept in a special file. A Washington Birthday party was held, with Brother Frank Doran of St. Paul as speaker. During March, a dance, with Brother W. P. Scherrer furnishing the music gratis, was held. The tickets required for the dance consisted of Thrift Stamps. A committee of five was appointed to keep up correspondence with the Brothers at the battle front. An identification tag was given by the Lodge to every brother leaving for the army.

The president of the Normal School (now Teacher's College), C. H. Cooper, Rev. G. A. Cahoon of the M. E. Church, and Rev. W. E. Evans, of the Welsh Church, petitioned the Lodge for membership. These three Brethren received their degree during the months of July and August. There is no record of any meeting held between October 5 and December 6. The Life Membership Fund was transferred to the General Fund. Fees for membership were \$50.

1919

W. A. Sanborn, W. M. Wilburn M. Taylor, Sr. W.
F. C. Kelly, Jr. W. C. A. Chapman, Treas.
F. W. Bates, Sec'y.

A silk hat was purchased for the Master. The Ladies of the Star presented the Lodge with a service flag, which had all the names of the Brothers in service on it. There were many petitions, and the committees on investigation were not announced in open Lodge but were left to the Master and Secretary. The usual Washington Birthday observance, and several dancing parties were

held. On these dances, they usually made a little money. It was moved and adopted that the pictures of all the Past Masters of No. 12 be displayed in a frame.

On May 20, the cornerstone of the Union School building was laid, with impressive ceremonies with the Grand Master and many other Grand officers present. Brother A. M. Stein, who had died, willed the Lodge \$250. The Lodge took part in a July 4 pageant with a float. Blue Earth Chapter No. 7, R.A.M., made a gift of \$100 to the Lodge. A collection was taken up at a stated communication for three needy Brothers, with the result of \$33 being collected. Brother Sanborn's year was a busy one, with many petitions, monthly dances and a study club under W. P. Scherer.

1920

W. A. Sanborn, W. M.

Wilbur M. Taylor, S. W.

T. C. Kelly, Jr. W.

C. A. Chapman, Treas.

F. W. Bates, Sec'y.

As in former years, in order to facilitate the large number of candidates, many special communications were opened on the E. A. degree, and the work conferred on a number of candidates, while at that same meeting, other E. A. were examined as to their proficiency in the lecture. The Lodge was then opened on the F. C. degree, and the Second degree conferred on those who had been examined earlier the same evening.

Brother Chas. A. Chapman, who had been Treasurer for many years, died, and Brother Chas. D. Ott was elected to fill the vacant position. The Secretary was instructed to extend a vote of thanks to Blue Earth Chapter No. 7 for the gift of \$500, and to Cereal Chapter No. 2 for the gift of \$400. Brother F. W. Bates resigned as Secretary, and Brother F. L. Searing was elected to his place.

On September 30, through an invitation of Star of the East Lodge No. 33 at Owatonna, twenty-nine Brethren traveled to that city to assist in laying the cornerstone of a new High School.

The Mayor of Minneapolis, Brother J. E. Meyers, gave a lecture on Masonry under the auspices of Blue Earth Chapter No. 7, on November 12. About one hundred Brethren from Mankato and nearby Lodges were present. Thanks were given to Brother W. P. Scherer for bringing this distinguished Brother to Mankato. The by-laws were amended to raise the fees for membership to \$65 beginning January 1, 1921.

At the time of remodeling the Temple, many of the Brethren had contributed from \$25 to \$100 to help the Lodge, for which they had received certificates. During 1920, quite a number of these certificates were returned to the Lodge as gifts. In many other ways, a true Masonic spirit was evident. The sum of \$50 was collected for the Washington Memorial, and \$46.05 at a single meeting for a destitute widow of a Brother.

There were sixty-seven meetings during the year as follows: Six in January, five in February, five in March, six in April, seven in May, seven in June, six in July, three in August, six in September, five in October, five in November, and six in December. The Third degree was conferred at twelve of these communications, with a dinner at nine of them. The Worshipful Master, Brother W. A. Sanborn, was present at sixty of these meetings.

1921

Wilbur M. Taylor, W. M.

F. C. Kelly, Sr. W.

G. M. Bergmann, Jr. W.

J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.

F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

The dance committee turned over \$100 derived from a dance on New Year's eve. Cereal Chapter No. 2, O.E.S., turned over \$600 to the Lodge as a gift. An all-steel safe was bought for \$355. On May 4, a special communication for the purpose of conferring the Third degree on five candidates. A dinner was served in the dining room, and the second section of the work was conferred by the Grand Master and some of his officers.

A member of Mankato Lodge No. 12 was accused of un-Masonic conduct, and a trial was held on May 20. The result of trial was—guilty 172, not guilty, 80. There being more than a two-thirds vote against the Brother, he was found guilty, and indefinitely suspended. Several charitable contributions to destitute worthy brethren, amounting to about \$75 were made. The salary of the Secretary was raised to \$175 per year. During the year, the Third degree was conferred at seven special communications.

1922

F. C. Kelly, W. M. G. M. Bergmann, Sr. W.
M. A. Nichols, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

On January 30, the Lodge held a reception for Brother Herman Held, who had been elected Grand Master.

A Washington's Birthday party was held, with music by Brother Parlova, and an address by Brother R. A. Jensen. The Lodge paid a bill of \$84.25 incurred by a Brother for nursing expenses. The Stewards reported that an electric sign could be bought for the Temple for \$195, less 25 per cent for cash.

A De Molay Chapter was established during the year, which was called Sir Galahad Chapter. Blue Earth Chapter No. 7 assumed the sponsorship, while Mankato Lodge No. 12 furnished the use of the Temple without rent.

1923

W. A. Sanborn, W. M. M. A. Nichols, Sr. W.
Oscar Tenzer, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

Through recommendation of some of the Brethren, a small, semi-monthly paper was started, to be paid for by the advertising therein. It was called 'The Temple News', and contained notices of meetings of the different Masonic bodies, and other items of interest to the craft. The first issue appeared in January, 1923, and subscription thereto was 50 cents per year. Cereal Chapter No. 2, O.E.S., again presented the Lodge with a gift of \$500.

On March 7, there was a very good attendance at a lecture given at the temple by Brother F. C. Higgins of New York City. At 3:15 P. M., on June 25, the Lodge was opened on the E. A. degree, with several candidates being initiated; others were examined as to their knowledge in this degree. The latter were then passed to the F. C. degree, while still others were examined in the F. C. degree. Finally, these last ones were raised to the N. M. degree. A dinner was served at 6:30, and Lodge was closed at 9:30. Mankato Masons and Stars, with Elysian Masons and Stars, held a picnic at Lake Francis.

The study club was also busy during the year. Talks on different Masonic subjects were given by Brothers Hancock, Nichols, Held and Footner. A committee was appointed to look into the matter of purchasing a tract of land of 186 acres jointly with the Masons of New Ulm and St. Peter, for the purpose of establishing a Masonic summer resort.

Brother J. M. McConnell, a member of Mankato Lodge No. 12, was Grand Master of Minnesota in 1923. On October 19, he paid his official visit to the Lodge, which was followed by a reception in his honor.

As was the custom in previous years, the Master occasionally read from the proceedings of the last Grand Lodge communication, to acquaint the Brethren with newly adopted rules and regulations.

1924

G. M. Bergmann, W. M. M. A. Nichols, Sr. W.
Oscar Tenzer, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y

Cereal Chapter No. 2 presented the Lodge with a check of \$200, as a token of appreciation for the kindness shown them. At the Washington Birthday party, the children of Masons were entertained by the Scottish Rite Club.

On March 21st, the trial of a Brother who had been charged with un-Masonic conduct was held. He was found guilty by a vote of 273 to 3, and expelled from the privileges of Masonry.

The Grand Master, M. W. James, made his official visit to the Lodge on April 25.

Redecoration of the interior of the Temple was completed by the Endicott Co., at a cost of \$1,077, of which sum \$400 was contributed by Blue Earth Chapter No. 7, R.A.M.—Mankato Commandery No. 4 donated \$200 to the Lodge.

The Masonic Study Club was active during the year, and interesting talks on Masonic subjects were given by Brothers Gunn, Sanborn, Loren Clark, Hancock, and Harry Johnson. Forty-six communications were held during the year.

1925

M. A. Nichols, W. M. Oscar Henzer, Sr. W.
C. B. Burmeister, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y

The Scottish Rite Club again offered their assistance of entertaining the children at the Washington Birthday party. Cereal Chapter No. 2 again presented the Lodge with a check of \$500. It is worthy of note that the Johnson Laundry Company had done the laundry work of the Lodge free of charge for several years.

The Grand Conclave of Knight's Templar was held on May 19, 20 and 21 in Mankato—Brother J. J. Flachsenhar being Grand Commander of that body. The Lodge shared in the expense of decorating the Temple.

At that time, it was law of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, and also other jurisdictions, that a Brother was not a full-fledged member until he had passed a satisfactory examination in the Third Degree. Consequently, Mankato Lodge No. 12 was asked by that jurisdiction to examine certain Brothers, who had moved to this vicinity, as to their proficiency.

On October 30, a special communication was held for conferring the M.M. Degree on five candidates. All the stations and places were filled with Past Masters in the East, West and South. There were more than 200 present.

1926

Oscar Tenzer, W. M. C. B. Burmeister, Sr. W.
R. R. Hamilton, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y

The salary of the Secretary was raised to \$200 per year, and made retro-active for 1925. Again the Scottish Rite Club offered to entertain the children during the afternoon of a Washington's Birthday party, and again the Eastern Star presented a gift of \$500 to the Lodge.

A committee recommended that the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery each contribute \$50 for the 'Temple News' to pay for the past-due printing bills. On October 26, the M. M. Degree was conferred on five candidates by a team of Brethren from St. Paul, (probably the Osman Temple team). The Grand Master paid his official visit to the Lodge, and spoke about the new method of conducting trials in this jurisdiction. The social committee was active during the year, and some money was turned over to the treasury. Thirty-nine stated and special communications were held.

1927

C. B. Burmeister, W. M. R. R. Hamilton, Sr. W.
Frank E. Morse, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

Rev. Arthur W. Ratz, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, gave a splendid address at the Washington's Birthday party.

Charges were brought against a member of Mankato Lodge No. 12, who had been convicted of taking a bribe at Minneapolis.

On April 27 a trial was held, according to the new method by Trial Commissioners appointed by the Grand Master, and our Mankato Brother was expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonry. The Commandery contributed \$50 to the 'Temple News' to assist in paying the past-due bills.

During the past several years, several improvements had been made, such as buying new slides for the lectures. Also, an addressograph to help the Secretary in his work. Brother R. R. Hamilton, Sr. W., moved to Hibbing—Brother T. C. Kelly was appointed to the Board of Custodians by the Grand Master.

1928

C. B. Burmeister, W. M. Frank E. Morse, Sr. W.
Earl Girvin, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

The Lodge received \$300 from the Grand Lodge for the relief of a destitute widow of a Mankato Mason. The usual Washington's Birthday party was held. September 21, Brother John Ruthke, a member of Germania Lodge No. 160, of Baltimore, Maryland, was a visitor. He invited the Brethren to visit his Lodge, where all the work is conferred in the German Language. The 'Temple News' was again in financial difficulties, and a committee was appointed to consult with the other Masonic bodies to alleviate it. Cereal Chapter No. 2, O.E.S., informed the Lodge that they were considering a Chapter of Job's Daughters, and inquired if the Temple was available for their meetings.

Contributions to the Masonic Home, which had been up to then more or less voluntary, were made compulsory, and later on set at \$12.50 per member. After that, no member could get a demit unless he had paid his assessment. Later on, the Lodge decided to collect the \$12.50 as part of the initiation fee.

1929

Frank E. Morse, W. M. Loren Clark, Sr. W.
Irving R. Hammet, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

The Grand Lodge again contributed \$300 for the relief of a Mason and a Mason's widow. For the Washington's Birthday party dance, it was decided to admit only members of the Masonic bodies who could show a membership card for 1928 or 1929. This was done to guard against the many outsiders who had crowded the dance floor on previous occasions.

As in other years, the Secretary received a check for \$300 from the Eastern Star as a gift.

Charges against two members of Mankato Lodge No. 12 were brought by the Junior Warden. One for the possession of, and the other for sale of intoxicating liquor in violation of the laws of the U.S.A. The Grand Master appointed a trial commission, and the Lodge received a letter from the Grand Secretary in May that these two members were expelled.

Cereal Chapter No. 2 was granted permission to sponsor a branch of Job's Daughters, with meetings to be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The Senior Steward reported that the tornado of June 11 had done considerable damage to the roof of the Temple, because parts of the roof of the Ben Pav Hotel had been blown on it. The damage was repaired, and the cost borne by the insurance company.

Two years earlier, Brother Frank E. Morse had checked the old records at the Court House, and found that the Lodge still had an interest in 200 feet of the old Masonic Cemetery on North Sixth Street. The Lodge ordered the Stewards to keep it in good condition. Brother Bobbit, who was engaged to do the cleaning, reported a body had been removed from the cemetery. As the grave was not marked, it is not known who was buried there.

The outside of the Temple was painted by Brother Zeno at a cost of \$189.50. On December 20, at a stated meeting, the Grand Master was received with proper honors. He installed the officers elected and appointed for the ensuing year. As he had done on previous occasions, Brother O. Tenzer presented Brother Frank E. Morse with a Past Master's apron, as a personal gift.

1930

Loren Clark, W. M. Irving R. Hammet, Sr. W.
Harry L. Peterson, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

The Secretary announced that he had received a gift of \$300 from the Eastern Star, and Cereal Chapter No. 2 also had put aside \$150 to be used for decorating the interior of the Temple. Washington's Birthday party was held on February 21. At a special communication on March 14, the Grand Master paid his official visit to the Lodge. The Third Degree was conferred on Brother Harold M. Kleinschmidt, with over 200 members and visitors present. All the stations and places were filled by Past Grand Masters. The Standard Oil Company rented the empty lot next to the Temple as a temporary filling station while their own building was erected. Brother W. P. Scherer was appointed chairman of the Social Committee.

Quite a few letters were received during several years past, announcing the suspension and expulsion of Brethren for un-Masonic conduct. This writer wonders if the Prohibition Laws had something to do with this. The Secretary

recommended that the dues of Brother Larkin be remitted, as this Brother had paid dues since 1869.

1931

Irving R. Hammet, W. M. Harry L. Peterson, Sr. W.
George J. Miller, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

A gift of \$400 was received from Cereal Chapter No. 2. Also \$400 was received from the Grand Lodge for the relief of several Masonic widows of former members. Brother Frank Lossow was appointed as janitor of the building and Tyler at \$75 per month. The Rev. Ezra Clemens was allowed \$15 for the Washington's Birthday address. Another \$300 was received from the Grand Master for the relief of a destitute widow.

The depression of the thirties made itself felt in a very acute manner. On November 6, the Secretary read a list of names whose unpaid dues amounted to more than \$400. On November 27, the Grand Master, J. L. Mitchell, accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, visited Mankato Lodge No. 12, and were received with proper honors. During many years, at the death of our Brethren, Brother Walter Sanborn conducted the funeral services in an admirable form.

1932

Harry L. Peterson, W. M. Geo. J. Miller, Sr. W.
E. P. Baecker, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

The Lodge received Christmas and New Year's greetings from Job's Daughters. A gift of \$300 was received from Cereal Chapter, O.E.S. Brother Stafford King, State Auditor, was asked to be the speaker at the Washington's Birthday observance, but could not come on account of sickness. The Lodge voted \$100 for the relief of a needy Brother. In the spring of the year, Job's Daughters planted some cherry trees at Sibley Park.

Cereal Chapter No. 2, O. E. S., presented the Lodge with a new altar. On October 21, the 75th anniversary of the Lodge was celebrated, with the Grand officers, five Past Grand Masters, fifteen Past Masters of Mankato Lodge No. 12, and many Brethren present. The Grand Master gave a very instructive and carefully worked out address. The Lodge conveyed its interest in the Masonic Cemetery to the City of Mankato for park purposes, to be known as Pioneer Memorial Park. The by-laws were amended to include three trustees to the elective officers of the Lodge, all of which, except the first three, to be elected for three-year terms. Under this amendment, they have full supervision over all real estate and personal property, and make an annual report each December to the Lodge.

1933

George J. Miller, W. M. E. P. Baecker, Sr. W.
Bert Yarwood, Jr. W. J. J. Flachsenhar, Treas.
F. L. Searing, Sec'y.

Owing to the inability of many Brethren to pay their dues in full, and also of the other Masonic bodies to pay their rent, the Lodge borrowed \$1,500 from the bank to have money for emergencies. They received a gift of \$200 from the Eastern Star. Brother Koffron was appointed custodian at \$65 per month.

The Board of Trustees worked out a budget of anticipated necessary expenses of the Lodge. A special committee was appointed to thoroughly audit the books of the Lodge. The Secretary resigned. Brother C. B. Burmeister was appointed acting Secretary, and a new system of bookkeeping set up. At a stated meeting on March 3, Brother Loren Clark was elected Secretary. On May 1, an occasional Grand Lodge was held at Mankato for the purpose of conducting the funeral service for our Brother, Past Grand Master J. M. McConnell. The service at the grave was conducted by the Grand Master, M. J. Brown, accompanied by many Grand officers. The Trustees recommended that the Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge be placed under bond.

A new boiler was installed at a cost of \$639.24. Brother Samuel Q. Larkin died in Minneapolis. He had been a member of Masonic Lodge for sixty-five years.

These were hard times, with the whole country suffering from a depression. About twelve million people without jobs. The Secretary report showed twenty-six stricken for nonpayment of dues. One of the banks had not opened as yet, so the charity fund of the Lodge was frozen there. The unpaid dues for 1931, 1932, and 1933 were \$2,059. On top of that, they had to buy a new boiler. The Commandery owed the Lodge \$550 in unpaid rent. But many of the Brethren who were then stricken from the rolls were reinstated later when conditions improved.

Membership at end of year, 491.

1934

E. P. Baecker, W. M. B. E. Yarwood, Sr. W.
H. G. Brendler, Jr. W. Harvey Pass, Treas.
Loren Clark, Sec'y.

On February 2, at a stated communication, a short business session was held. Then, at 8:40, the Marshal escorted the Past Masters into the Lodge room. Three Past Grand Masters, Widell, Held and Erickson, were seated in the East. The Marshal again retired and escorted the Job's Daughters guardian, followed by four De Molay boys, with the U. S. flag, and followed by thirty-five Job's Daughters clad in their robes. The flag was placed on the platform, and the boys and girls seated in the East. A splendid program consisting of music, readings and song was then given by the young people. A memorial was then held for Past Grand Master McConnell. Talks were given by the Master, E. P. Baecker, and Brothers G. M. Palmer, Widell, Held, Erickson, J. N. Day, Wilson, Kelly and Tenzer of Lodge No. 12, and Geo. Kraus of Wilton Lodge.

A letter from the Grand Secretary reported that the trial commission had suspended one of our Brothers for one year.

The by-laws were amended to reduce the fees for membership to \$50. On June 1, Job's Daughters presented the Lodge with a check for \$50 in token of appreciation for the kindness shown them.

The Secretary, Brother Loren Clark, resigned, and the Master appointed Brother D. E. Walker as acting Secretary. On September 18, the Lodge held a rededication meeting, as requested by the Grand Master. The Brethren assembled around the altar, and kneeling, recited the obligations of the three degrees, led by the Master and Wardens. After that, Past Master Miller read the rededication address, as received from the Grand Master, followed by Past Master Wilson, with a talk of constitutional week observance September 21. The Grand Master, B. S. Adams, and many other Grand officers were received with proper honors.

Times were still tough, and the dues of about thirty Brethren were remitted for one year.

Brother Walter Sanborn again gave all the funeral orations during the year.

1935

B. E. Yarwood, W. M. H. G. Brendler, Sr. W.
Le Roy Frentz, Jr. W. H. J. Pass, Treas.
D. E. Walker, Sec'y.

On motion, the Grand Lodge was petitioned to assist with \$360 for the relief of a destitute Brother, and the widow of another Brother.

In a letter from the Grand Lodge, it was suggested that the Lodges install a question box where questions were dropped to be answered at later meetings. Brothers Hammett and T. C. Kelly were appointed to answer submitted questions. March 30, there was a well attended meeting called, "Traveling Salesmen's Night". The Third Degree was conferred with all the twelve craftsmen, and some other places being filled with traveling men. Another fine meeting was on May 3, when the Past Masters and Past Grand Masters were honored by the Lodge. At this occasion Brother Sanborn answered the submitted questions. Brother Robert E. Dorn, Pastor of the Methodist Church, gave the address of the evening.

On September 29, Grand Master F. G. McKeown and other Grand officers were received with grand honors. An amendment to the by-laws was passed reducing the fees to \$45 for the degrees. Brother Sanborn was thanked by the Master for responding to every funeral call, and gave him a token of appreciation.

On December 19, Rose Croix Shrine No. 13, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, was instituted with appropriate ceremonies.

1936

H. G. Brendler, W. M. Le Roy Frentz, Sr. W.
Otto P. Rinde, Jr. W. H. J. Pass, Treas.
D. E. Walker, Sec'y.

It was announced that any requests of the educational committee for information would be assigned to various members. Brothers W. A. Sanborn and L. C. Coyer were appointed to handle the subject.

Two Masonic funerals in March—on the 23rd for Brother Footner, and on the 29th for Brother L. L. Burill, another on April 17 for P. W. Pitcher, all of these with Knights Templar pallbearers and escorts. At the first two, Brother W. A. Sanborn gave the service, and Brother W. E. Pool at the latter.

At another meeting, the Worshipful Master, Brother Maag, of Khuruin Lodge of Minneapolis gave a splendid talk on Masonic light. On September 18, the acting Grand Master, F. A. Matson, accompanied by other grand officers, paid a visit to the Lodge, and was received with grand honors. As September was public safety month, he gave a very fine address on that subject. Brother J. B. Smith, then Grand Commander of Knights Templar, and Wm. E. Pool, Grand Generalissimo, also responded when called upon. The educational committee was very active during the year in presenting subjects of interest. These papers were read by Brothers Sanborn, Coyer, Taylor and Bergmann. However, on some of these occasions, the attendance was discouraging. Brother Harry Johnson spoke on his trip to Sweden, and Brother Denman showed pictures of a trip taken to Eastern Canada.

1937

Le Roy Frenz, W. M. Otto P. Rinde, Sr. W.
Brett M. Taylor, Jr. W. H. J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

On motion of Brother Gustaf Widell, the Lodge voted \$150 to Mankato Commandery No. 4, to help defray the expenses for the Grand Conclave of Knight's Templar to be held in June of 1937 at Mankato, Brother J. B. Smith being the Grand Commander of Minnesota that year.

After a lapse of several years, the Lodge again had a Washington's Birthday observance. A paper was read on the ancient landmarks of Masonry by Brother Herman Held. A pancake supper was served by the officers of the Lodge in March. The same evening, Harry Peterson as Commander of Mankato Commandery No. 4, presented the Lodge, on behalf of the York Rite bodies, with a framed picture of Past Grand Master Gustaf Widell. On April 27, the Lodge honored with a reception all Brethren who had been members for 40 years or more. June 18, Brother Walker congratulated the Commandery for an inspiring spectacle and great success of the Grand Conclave which had been held in Mankato that week. Brothers Widell and Harry Peterson thanked the Lodge for their cooperation.

The wages of the Custodian were increased to \$75 per month. A toilet was put in on the first floor. Seventy-five members and visitors were present on October 17 to hear an address given by District Judge, Brother Fred Sonn of Waseca, on the Constitution of the United States.

On November 5, the Grand Master Frank W. Matson, and other Grand Officers came to visit and were received with the proper honors.

The Past Masters of Mankato Lodge No. 12 were honored at a special communication on November 26. After a dinner, the Past Masters conferred the Third Degree on several candidates. The new officers were installed on December 17. The Charity Committee read their report, and it was voted that the Grand Lodge be asked to continue the payment of \$10 per month to two Mankato beneficiaries. Brother W. A. Sanborn, as in previous years, conducted the Masonic funerals.

1938

Otto P. Rinde, W. M. Brett M. Taylor, Sr. W.
Lester Coyer, Jr. W. H. J. Pass, Treas.
D. E. Walker, Sec'y.

A Washington's Birthday party was held on February 22. On March 25, a reception and banquet was held in honor of former service men, now members of the Lodge. Of the eighty-one ex-servicemen members, fifty-eight were present. George J. Miller, Past Master, presided. There was singing led by Brother Wm. Schuldt, a roll call of honor by D. E. Walker, an address by S. B. Wilson, and reminiscences by Harry Johnson.

On May 13, the Past Masters conferred the Third Degree on a number of candidates. Brother Fred E. Davey, one of the candidates, was presented with a Masonic pin given by his Grandfather. Three generations of Daveys were present: the candidate, his father, and his grandfather. Two weeks later the Past Masters conferred the M.M. Degree, because Mrs. Rinde had died, and the Master was absent.

Several events of interest during the year; namely, a picnic on July 10, a farmer's night on October 14, and by order of the Grand Master, a rededication night October 18, with the obligations and reading of the landmarks. Grand Master R. W. Stanford, visited the Lodge on November 4.

1939

Brett M. Taylor, W. M. Lester Coyer, Sr. W.
Kyle L. Matteson, Jr. W. H. J. Pass, Treas.
D. E. Walker, Sec'y.

On May 26, the members of Zurah Temple Shrine degree team, conferred the Third Degree on three candidates. The Shrine Chanters Quartet furnished appropriate music, which was much enjoyed. It was announced that the degree team is composed of all ex-servicemen to promote the interests of Masonry.

The dining room was redecorated at a cost of \$154. On June 23, a memorable communication was held as a Past Master's night. The Third Degree was conferred by the Past Grand Masters, and Past Masters of No. 12. The Grand Master of Minnesota, Gunnar H. Nordby, and most of the other grand officers, were present. The Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Minnesota, Harry L. Peterson, who is one of our own members, and Wm. E. Pool, who was Grand Commander, also honored the Lodge with their presence.

The Zuhrah Temple Merry Makers gave an entertainment on November 9 at the Teacher's College under the auspices of Blue Earth Chapter No. 7, and Mankato Commandery.

When it came to giving lectures in the degree work, Brother Loren Clark and Oscar Tenzer were always available.

1940

Lester C. Coyer, W. M. Kyle L. Matteson, Sr. W.
Milton D. Mason, Jr. W. H. J. Pass, Treas.
D. E. Walker, Sec'y.

A box social and dance were held after a stated meeting on March 1. Brother Irving Hammet acted as auctioneer. Colored slides of Mexico were shown at a meeting by Brother Paul T. Rockey on March 15. During April, the Lodge appropriated the sum of \$150 to furnish an infirmary at the Masonic Home.

It was suggested to resume the publication of the 'Temple News', which had not been printed for several years. A committee was appointed, and after their report, a discussion was held. It was decided to be careful until the Lodge was in a better financial condition.

On May 24, at a special meeting with the Senior Grand Warden and Grand Secretary present, the M. M. Degree was conferred on Harlan and Willard Held by their father, Past Grand Master Herman Held, with other Past Grand Masters and Past Masters filling all the stations. At the conclusion, Senior Grand Warden Wm. P. Sturtz gave a splendid talk.

A fellowship meeting was held on September 6, with 150 present, twenty-eight Lodges represented, among them many Grand Officers and other dignitaries. The Grand Lodge was again asked to give \$10 per month for a Mason's widow.

1941

Kyle L. Matteson, W. M. Milton D. Mason, Sr. W.
Rolande F. Johnson, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
D. E. Walker, Sec'y.

A Washington's Birthday party was given on February 22. The first all-Masonic party was held on Saturday, May 24. A committee was appointed to keep in touch with all the members, and sons of members then in the U. S. army.

In September, the Lodge sponsored a card party for buying shirts for the Masonic bowling team which had been established. A fellowship meeting was held on October 17, when the Grand Master, C. C. Colton, and Deputy Grand Master W. P. Sturtz were present. The Grand Master requested that Brother Herman Held preside over a question and answer session to arouse more interest among the Brethren. This proved to be an enlightening experience for all those present. After that, the Grand Master gave a very fine address.

During the year, the educational committee read several papers. At one meeting, they had an interesting evening by asking everyone present why he had become a Mason.

1942

Milton D. Mason, W. M. Rolande F. Johnson, Sr. W.
John G. Davison, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

The observance of Washington's Birthday was held after a stated meeting on February 20, with an interesting address by Brother A. B. Morris.

On March 20, an appeal for funds was made on behalf of the Masonic Service Association for their work in the various Army camps.

On April 3, Brother Andrew Lundin gave an interesting talk of his work on Antigua Island, West Indies, and about the life of the natives there. A contribution of \$25 from the Charity Fund was made to the Navy Relief Comm. A picnic at the Masonic Club at Lake Washington was held on Sunday, July 19, with all the various Masonic bodies cooperating. During the month, a letter from the Grand Lodge was received, with the information that fifty-year buttons were now on hand and ready for distribution. On September 17, the Grand Master, W. P. Sturtz and other Grand Officers were received with Grand honors. Three fifty-year buttons were presented by the Grand Master to three Brothers on this occasion.

On October 16 a school of instruction was held on the Third Degree, with Brother A. Fred Peterson custodian in charge. The members response to the Masonic Service Committee was excellent, and it went over the top. Tickets for the all-Masonic parties were on sale by the committee.

1943

Rolande F. Johnson, W. M. John G. Davison, Sr. W.
Albert P. Ackermann, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

The Lodge donated the use of the first floor of the Temple for the duration of the war to all patriotic and other meetings in connections with the war effort. Many of the officers and Brethren of the Lodges had joined the armed forces, and letters from them began to arrive from many parts of the world, such as Alaska, Kodiak, Africa and the Pacific Islands.

Past Grand Master Gustaf Widell, died on March 5 and was buried on March 8 from the Methodist Church, with Past Grand Master, W. P. Sturtz giving the funeral oration.

Brother John Anderson, who resides in Los Angeles, sent to the Lodge two \$100 war bonds and \$70 in 1942 quarters, to pay for his dues till he was a hundred years old.

On September 21 the Grand Master, Louis H. Coleson, and other Grand Officers paid their official visit to the Lodge. A Masonic quartet entertained the Lodge on several occasions, but minutes do not say who the members were.

Action was taken on the wish of our late Brother Gustaf Widell, that the

pictures of the other Past Grand Masters of No. 12 be hung in the anteroom. A committee was appointed for the all Masonic parties, as they had been a success in previous years.

1944

Henry G. Brendler, W. M. Otto P. Rinde, Sr. W.
Harlan D. Held, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

As can be seen by the above new officers, many of the officers and Brethren had joined the service of our country during the year.

A history-making event was enjoyed on February 11, as the Governor of Minnesota, Brother Edward J. Thye, honored the Lodge with his visit. Invitations had been sent out to surrounding Lodges, and there were 225 present. All those present were impressed by the interesting address of the Governor, a Past Master of Social Lodge No. 48 of Northfield, Minnesota. Several musical numbers given by Mrs. Milton Mason and Mr. and Mrs. John Deters added to the enjoyment of the evening.

A number of urgent appeals for contributions were made by the Grand Master on behalf of the Masonic Service Association, as many of our Brethren were confined in hospitals. On March 10 a moving picture was shown entitled, "My Son is Your Brother," to acquaint the members with the work of the Masonic Service Association. Brother Walter Wamborn, a Colonel in the Army, was a visitor on July 7 and gave his experiences in visiting Lodges in Texas and the Pacific coast.

In July, the Secretary reported that the balance of the note for \$5,000, given by the Lodge in 1938 to the Mankato Cemetery Association had finally been paid in full.

On October 6, the acting Grand Master, Brother Wm. P. Holman and other Grand Officers paid a visit to the Lodge. On this occasion, Past Master, Brother S. E. Wilson was presented with his fifty year button, Brother A. T. Wysong, who had received his fifty-year button the previous year, was present. Also, on this evening, the unveiling of the pictures of the Past Grand Masters of Mankato Lodge No. 12 took place.

During the year, many letters were received from our Brethren in the armed service, among these writers Brother Albert Ackermann was the most diligent. It was decided by the Lodge to send Christmas cards to all the members in the service of our country. The Lodge was busy during the year, as many special communications had been called for the benefit of candidates who were home on furlough.

On December 2 word was received from the army that our Brother W. N. Hastings had been killed in action in France.

1945

Harold E. Dubois, W. M. Kenneth A. Gollmar, Sr. W.
Wm. R. Blomgren, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

On February 16 the Lodge was approached by one of the Trustees of Cereal Chapter No. 2, O. E. S. in regards to certain improvements which the Eastern Star contemplated in the Temple. The Trustees of the Lodge were instructed to meet with those of the Star and report back for action.

A Past Master's night was held on March 5 with 200 members and visitors present. All but five of our own Past Masters, and fifteen Past Masters of neighboring Lodges were present. The principal attraction of the evening was

a Masonic play, "A Rose Upon the Altar", given by our dramatic club. This play found so much favor, that our Brother actors were invited to repeat their excellent performance for other Lodges and E. S. Chapters in a number of towns. This play was directed by Brother Bernard Boman.

The Trustees reported on March 16 about their meeting with the Board of Cereal Chapter, and recommended the acceptance of the generous offer of the Star. This offer was to spend half of the legacy, about \$12,000, which they had received from a former Matron, to modernize and improve the Temple. On motion, the Lodge accepted the offer with thanks and voted to give Cereal Chapter ten years of free rent beginning from the time the improvements were completed.

A free entertainment was given by the Zurah Merry Makers on May 25 at the Mankato Armory. The cost to the Lodge was \$35 for rent for the Armory, and a free meal for the entertainers. The war ended in August, and at that time, there were forty-nine of our members in the armed forces.

The Zurah Merry Makers must have enjoyed their welcome in Mankato, because they offered to send the Chanters to our town under the same condition. This recreation was held on October 26 and was enjoyed by all. The Lodge again sponsored a recognition night for the Masonic Bowling team.

It was announced that the first all-Masonic party would be given on November 24. Grand Master W. F. Holman and staff paid his official visit to the Lodge on November 16 and they were received with proper honors. The Masonic play "A Rose Upon the Altar," was given. The Grand Master favored us with an inspiring address. On November 30, Brother H. E. Johnson conferred the First Degree on three candidates, one of which being his son, H. C. Johnson.

1946

Ken A. Gollmar, W. M. Wm. R. Blomgren, Sr. W.
Albert P. Ackermann, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

The Birthday of George Washington, our first President, and Brother Mason was held on February 22nd.

Quite a number of candidates were accepted during the winter months, and many special meetings were held for doing degree work. On March 15, our Secretary, D. E. Walker, showed colored slides of a trip west he had taken the previous year. During the next two months, moving pictures of combat were shown by Sergeant Cornish, and slides by the Rev. Brother Dorn.

On September 18 Cereal Chapter No. 2 celebrated its 75th anniversary.

As the Lodge has thirteen candidates eligible for the Second Degree, a dispensation was asked for and received for September 6, to confer the degree on ten candidates, but only two presented themselves. On October 6, Brother A. Rindelaub was granted the privilege to confer the first degree on three of his sons. The Scottish Rite Choir of Minneapolis gave a concert at the Armory on October 20. The committee who was appointed to sell tickets for the all-Masonic parties, reported good progress. The Lodge and Eastern Star joined in giving a Christmas party for the children of Masons. This party was a great success, and has been continued every year since then.

1947

Wm. R. Blomgren, W. M. Albert P. Ackermann, Sr. W.
Elmer J. Uppstrom, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

January was a busy month, with five communications, with work in the Lodge on the 24th and 31st. On February 7 a sound movie entitled "Aid and Comfort" was shown after the close of the meeting. Brother Paul Hallman entertained the Brethren on March 7 with colored slides taken in Japan and the Philippine Islands. The Scottish Rite Degree Team conferred the Third degree on May 9.

Blue Earth Chapter No. 7, R. A. M., agreed to sponsor the all-Masonic parties during the winter. The Grand Master, C. L. Jacobson and eight other Grand Officers visited the Lodge on October 24. The salary of the Custodian was raised to \$100 per month, and a bonus of \$200 voted to him for the past year. Nineteen-hundred and forty-seven was a fruitful year. No less than fifty stated and special communications were held. With twenty-six special meetings, the officers were kept busy conferring degrees.

1948

Albert P. Ackermann, W. M. Elmer J. Uppstrom, Sr. W.
Wm. A. Cliff, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

On January 30, the Third Degree was conferred on three candidates by the employees of the Standard Oil Company, to honor one of their associates who was raised that evening.

Brother A. H. Ogle gave a talk on February 6 on his experiences as an Air Force pilot during the war. In April, a committee was appointed to collect one dollar per member for the Masonic Service Association. The Lodge received a letter from Past Master F. E. Morse who is stationed in Munich, Germany. Grand Master J. B. Tomhave honored the Lodge with a visit, and was received in due form. He presented Brothers Stephan, Searing and Paddock with fifty-year buttons.

A school of instruction was held on June 17 by Custodian Fred Peterson in the First Degree, and on July 15 exemplifying the work in the Third Degree. The dues were raised to \$8.00 per year. The tickets for the all-Masonic parties were set at \$1.50 per couple for four parties. The Scottish Rite team from Minneapolis conferred the Third Degree on Octobr 29. Among others, twelve 33rd Degree Masons took part in the work. Fifty-year buttons were presented to Brothers Gerlich and Balkwill on November 5. The children's Christmas party was held in the afternoon of December 18.

1949

Elmer J. Uppstrom, W. M. Wm. A. Cliff, Sr. W.
Vernard E. Lundin, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Dan E. Walker, Sec'y.

As in former years, a letter was received from the Square and Compass Club of the University of Minnesota, offering their assistance to any Masons or sons of Masons attending the State University. On January 19 the Third Degree was conferred on five candidates. As a surprise to Brothers D. E. Walker and Wm. Koffron, the meeting was called Walker and Koffron night, to honor these two Brothers for their many years of faithful and unselfish services to the Lodge. Past Grand Master G. H. Norby was also present at the festivities of the evening. On March 18 the Lodge again received one of the interesting letters from Past Master Brother F. E. Morse from Munich, Germany.

and the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association and Past
At a stated communication on June 17 the Grand Master Ray E. Cummins,

Grand Master of the District of Columbia, Carl Claudy of Washington, D. C., were received with grand honors. The occasion was the presenting of three fifty-year buttons to three Brethren of Mankato Lodge No. 12: Brothers Sleight, Paddock and Allan Jackson. Also, the Grand Master presented Brother A. Rindelaub with a framed certificate as a Minnesota Monitor, which had been granted to him by the Board of Custodians upon an examination held by the Board. Brother Claudy was the speaker of the evening, and his address was indeed enlightening and of great interest to all those present. Brother Claudy is the author of many books on Masonry, and also wrote quite a number of Masonic plays.

It was moved and adopted that the Lodge remit the \$50 rent to the Job's Daughters, as the girls had given such excellent service in waiting on tables at the many dinners of the Lodge. Announcement was made of the all-Masonic parties, with tickets again to be at \$1.50 per couple. Schools of instruction on the three degrees, with Custodian Brother Fred Peterson in charge, on October 5, 20 and 25. The Shrine Merry Makers gave a very fine entertainment at the Kato Ballroom on December 7. Brother Ed Kelly had received his fifty-year pin on December 5. The year 1949 was one of the busiest in the history of the Lodge. No less than fifty-nine meetings were held, and Brother Elmer Uppstrom surely was kept busy. On seven different occasions, we received dispensations from the Grand Master to confer work on more than five candidates. Brother Dan E. Walker resigned as Secretary.

1950

Wm. A. Cliff, W. M.

Vernard E. Lundin, Sr. W.

Chas. H. Otto, Jr. W.

Harvey J. Pass, Treas.

H. G. Stangland, Sec'y.

A dispensation was received from the Grand Master to confer the Second Degree on more than five candidates on February 27. On that date, the Second Degree was conferred on eight candidates, one of whom was Brother Harry Thiesfield, W. M. in 1956. The salary of the Secretary was raised to \$400 per year.

On March 24 a dispensation was again asked for and received from the Grand Master, to confer the first degree on more than five candidates. Consequently, the E. A. Degree was conferred on nine petitioners on that day. A DeMolay initiation was held on March 29. On April 7, the Second Degree was conferred on eight candidates. Again a dispensation was received, and the Third Degree conferred on seven candidates on April 20.

At a state communication on April 21, distinguished visitors were Grand Master K. M. Brown, and Past Master Tom Davis of South Harold, England. Our own Brother Cecil Jones, who had taken a trip to England the previous year, brought greetings from the Grand Master of Middlesex, England, by means of a voice recording.

On May 5, Brother Tom Davis, with the help of some of our Brothers, demonstrated the ceremonies of opening and closing, and also the degree work as it is done in England. This was indeed a very interesting experience.

Again six candidates for the Second Degree on May 25 and on June 9 for the Third Degree. During September, it was announced that the all-Masonic parties again be held with tickets to be \$2.00 per couple.

On November 9, the Second Degree was conferred on eight Brothers. The by-laws were amended to raise the fees to \$65, with the additional \$12.50 for the Masonic Home, making \$77.50. A special dispensation from the Grand Master, giving permisison to confer the Third Degree on six candidates on

December 8th. The rentals of the other bodies were raised \$50 each per year, and the Custodian's salary was raised to \$150 per month.

A very busy year again under Bill Cliff, and so much degree work that nine special dispensations were received to confer the work on more than five candidates.

1951

Vernard E. Lundin, W. M. Chas. H. Otto, Sr. W.

Francis Robertson, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.

H. G. Stangland, Sec'y.

On account of the flood in Mankato and North Mankato, permission was granted to The Salvation Army to use the Temple without charge for their splendid work among the flood sufferers.

There are no minutes for any meetings held during the month of August. The dates for the all Masonic parties were announced October 5. On October 12, at a special communication, the Past Masters of No. 12 were honored. On this evening, the Grand Master and other grand officers paid a visit to the Lodge. Three of our Brothers, namely, Herman Held, Frank Pay and F. W. Bates, were escorted to the East and presented with fifty-year buttons. Then, the Grand Master gave us a very interesting and educational talk.

Th Zuhrah Chanters came to Mankato on November 9 and entertained us with their usual splendid performance. On November 16 the First Degree was conferred on seven candidates and on the 30th six were passed to Second Degree. Then, on December 15, seven were made Master Masons. The children's Christmas party was held before the holidays, sponsored jointly by the Lodge and Star.

1952

Chas. H. Otto, W. M. Francis Robertson, Sr. W.

Randall Rowe, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.

H. G. Stangland, Sec'y.

As in former years, it was voted to grant free rent to the Job's Daughters for the ensuing year.

New flues were put in the boiler at a cost of \$611.93. A special dispensation was received from the Grand Master, to confer the Second Degree on six candidates on September 19.

The by-laws were brought up to date. On November 7 the Senior Grand Warden Brother Le Roy Matson, honored the Lodge with his presence. The occasion being Past Master's night, with thirteen present, and the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the initiation of George Washington as a Mason. Brother Matson gave us an enlightening and interesting lecture on Washington—his early hardships, and his struggles during the Revolutionary War. The children's Christmas party was held on December 20.

1953

Randall Rowe, W. M. Emory Burgess, Sr. W.

George Sjodin, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.

Herb. G. Stangland, Sec'y.

At a special communication on January 5, Brother Dan E. Walker was honored, the occasion being the presentation of a fifty-year button to him by Past Grand Master Herman Held. The Second Degree was conferred on six candidates on January 23, and the Third Degree on six candidates on February 19.

During June, the roof was repaired at a cost of \$486. In July the exterior of the Temple was painted at a cost of \$1,095.

On September 25, we received a visit from the Grand Master, Brother H. T. Olson and several other grand officers. After a delicious turkey dinner, the distinguished visitors were received in due form. The Grand Master presented Brother Ed Townsend with a fifty-year button. It was announced that schools of instruction would be held on October 27, November 3, and November 9. Past Grand Master, Brother Herman Held died on October 25. The Past Master's night was held on November 13, with Past Masters occupying the chairs during the conferring of the Third Degree. Guests of honor were five fifty-year members.

1954

Emory Burgess, W. M. George Sjodin, Sr. W.
Harry Thiesfield, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
Herb. G. Stangland, Sec'y.

Our Brother David A. Jones was presented with a fifty-year button on January 15. It was announced that a resolution had been adopted by the Grand Lodge, at its last session, that, with the permission of the Grand Lodge, a Lodge of sorrow for funerals could be opened at the beginning of the year, which would dispense with any further openings for funerals for the rest of the year.

The by-laws were amended making dues beginning January 1st, 1955 \$10 per year. Schools of instruction were held on October 28, November 18 and December 10. It was moved and adopted that Job's Daughters again be given free rent during 1955. Secretary Herb. G. Stangland resigned, and Brother E. H. Metag was elected to fill his place.

1955

George O. Sjodin, W. M. Harry Thiesfield, Sr. W.
George Snitzler, Jr. W. Harvey J. Pass, Treas.
E. H. Metag, Sec'y.

Past Grand Master, J. B. Tomhave paid a visit to the Lodge on February 4. As Chairman of the Masonic Home Board, he gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the Masonic Home. On February 18, during a stated meeting, a George Washington's Birthday observance was held, with Brother A. Rindelaub giving a short historical talk of Washington, the man and Mason. Also, appreciation was expressed to Brother Sjodin for the efficient arrangements for the Area meeting which had been held on February 5. On Easter Sunday, a plant of Easter lilies was sent to all sick and shut-in Brethren of the Lodge. In the month of June, our Worshipful Master Brother Geo. O. Sjodin, on his doctor's advice, entered a sanitorium for a lung ailment. We are happy to say, that he returned before the year was over in a hale and robust condition. Brother and Mrs. Wm. Koffron celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Masonic Temple on August 7. A Third Degree was held on November 12 on Past Master's night with a dinner. Announcement was made of the Grand Lodge project of building a Masonic Memorial Hospital on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The first all-Masonic parties were held on December 10 and December 31.

1956

Harry Thiesfield, W. M. George Scheer, Sr. W.
Adolph Rindelaub, Jr. W. Harvey Pass, Treas.
Erwin H. Metag, Sec'y.

At a stated communication on January 6, the Lodge voted to petition the Masonic Home Board for admission of Brother F. L. Stephan and Mrs. Stephan for admission to the Minnesota Masonic Home. It was also announced that Brother A. Rindelaub had been appointed Chairman of Mankato Lodge No. 12 for the Masonic Memorial Cancer Hospital campaign. The drive for funds for the hospital began late in January, with thirty-nine Brethren participating in this well worth while cause. Besides the Chairman, A. Rindelaub, and Vice Chairman Harry Thiesfield, thirty-seven other Brethren expressed themselves to do all in their power to make the drive a success. We had a kick-off on January 22, with all the volunteers present and ready to start working. Four of these; namely, Brothers George Scheer, Elmer Chisholm, Adolph Lundin and Bernard Boman acted as captains. Each captain selected eight solicitors to report to them. At that meeting, Brother Milton D. Mason gave an inspiring talk about the worthiness and need of the cause. We think that the solicitors who worked so diligently to put the drive over the top deserve specific recognition here. Besides the four captains, there were: Al Salisbury, Jr., E. F. Rogers, Al Ackermann, Vernard Lundin, Harvey Pass, Clifford Dietz, Leon Appel, John Hoerr, Tom Herion, Vern Randall, Roy Wennen, B. W. Kough, John W. Smith, Marcel Welcome, Ralph Schobert, Clarence Tolin, O. H. Morphew, Howard Williams, W. Earl Pay, Brett M. Taylor, Wm. Edwards, Geo. A. Johnson, Channing Winter, Royal Lee, Milton Mason, Curtis Enke, S. T. Austin, Phil Hammargren, Emory Burgess, John Kooistra, Med Jones, Chas. Kudrle, and J. Stanley Jones. These men were so successful that by February 11 we were able to send to the Minneapolis headquarters in cash and pledges the sum of \$6,320. By mid-August, we had \$11,003. The help which was given by, so graciously, several Sisters of the Eastern Star in typing and mailing letters was greatly appreciated. Sisters Marjorie Thompson and Josephine Lines not only helped in the preliminaries, but also gave valuable assistance by aid in checking returns. Later on, Sister Marjorie has, on several occasions, cheerfully volunteered to type and duplicate follow-up letters for the chairman.

Brother John Anderson of Los Angeles, Calif., who in 1943 had paid his Blue Lodge and also Chapter dues up to his one hundredth year in advance, again demonstrated his love for his Masonic affiliation, by sending a bank draft of \$101 for the Masonic Memorial Hospital fund.

At the Grand Chapter meeting of the Eastern Star of Minnesota held in May, Sister Mildred Dietz, Past Matron and beloved member of Cereal Chapter No. 2 of Mankato was elected Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota. On a Sunday during June a reception in honor of Sister Mildred was held at the Masonic Temple. About 500 members of the Star and Masons came for this occasion, including all the Grand Officers of the Star and also the Grand Master of Masons of Minnesota, to pay their respect to the Worthy Grand Matron. Brother J. J. Flachsenhar was presented with a fifty-year button by the Grand Master.

Brother and Mrs. F. L. Stephan were admitted to the Minnesota Masonic Home during June, and we hear they are very happy there.

During the summer, we had several interesting discussions on diverse Masonic subjects. At one communication, the ancient landmarks were considered, and at several other evenings the theme was, "The symbolism of the

First Degree, the symbolism of the Second Degree," and also a reflection on, "We meet upon the level, we act upon the plumb and we part upon the square." These topics were enjoyed by all those present, and we hope added a little understanding of what Masonry tries to teach.

The Centennial of the granting of the Charter of Mankato Lodge No. 12, is January 6, 1957. In order to commemorate this memorable occasion, a committee consisting of Brothers George Scheer and A. Rindelaub was appointed to make the proper arrangements for this celebration.

1957

The following officers were elected to service in 1957:

George W. Scheer, W. M.	Adolph Rindelaub, Sr. W.
Orrie Morphew, Jr. W.	B. W. Kough, Treas.
Med Jones, Sec'y.	