

THE KENTUCKY ODDFELLOW

Editor Bruce Fortin

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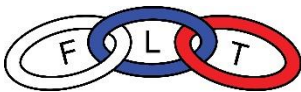
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Of The I.O.O.F, Kentucky”

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Arthur Light, Secretary

Oddfellows and Rebekah's

Relief Board of Kentucky, Inc.

P.O. Box 1208 Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702-1208



Edward Johnson, President

Relief Board Clarification

November 2023

The Relief Board made the decision at the 2023 Grand Lodge Session to "Clarify" the requirements in receiving the "Charitable Gift" from the Relief Board. This decision was made to ensure that the Relief Board's resources are used in the most effective way possible to help those in need.

1. The Lodge is responsible for starting the request process. They will provide a request form along with the necessary documentation, including a copy of a Provision of Death Certificate or Death Certificate, a published Obituary, and a signed and sealed report from the lodge.
 - a. Documentation submission: The Lodge or the Lodge's representative will submit the request form and accompanying documentation to the appropriate authority.
 - b. Review and approval: The request will be reviewed and approved by the relevant decision-making body.
 - c. Issuance of the Charitable Gift: Upon approval, a check will be issued to the recipient. If the recipient is located out of state, the check will be mailed to the lodge for presentation.
 - d. Presentation of the Charitable Gift: If the recipient is out of state, the lodge will be responsible for presenting the check to them.

Please note that this is a general overview of the process, and specific requirements or procedures may vary depending on the local regulations and policies governing the Lodge. It is always advisable to contact The Lodge directly for the most up-to-date information and guidance.

2. The amount will be determined by the lodge secretary's records and by the years of service to the fraternity with the following schedule:
 - a. Five Year member will receive Five Hundred Dollars.
 - b. Ten Year member will receive One Thousand Dollars.
 - c. Fifteen Year member will receive One Thousand Five Hundred.
 - d. Twenty-Year member will receive Two Thousand Dollars.

Scholarship applications clarification

The scholarship applications were also brought up and a change will be implemented in 2024, where:

1. The student must request a scholarship application.
2. The Grand Secretary will then mail out an application. Note: The student must provide family income and grades.
3. The information provided will be reviewed as a need, not being a member or a relation to a member in good standing.
4. The student must have the lodge seal on the application and be returned to the Grand Secretary in a flat envelope for ease in copying and provided to the Relief Board for review.

Arthur Light

Grand Secretary



Common Sayings and their meaning

Steal One's Thunder

Meaning: Win praise for oneself by pre-empting someone else's attempt to impress.

Origin: You think that you've done something awesome and unique, but someone got in there first and took your credit! Spare a thought for playwright John Dennis who, back in the 18th Century, made a machine that could nicely mimic the sound of thunder for his play. Sadly, his play wasn't a success, but somebody had taken note of his clever invention. When, later in another theatre, Dennis found somebody had copied his thunder machine and was using it without credit, he got mad. Really mad. Somebody had stolen his thunder!

Get One's Goat

Meaning: Irritate someone.

Origin: During horse racing some horses would get anxious, so owners would place goats in the stalls with them to calm them down. Rival horse owners would sometimes steal these goats therefore upsetting the horse and making it more likely to lose.

Achilles Heel

Meaning: A weakness or vulnerable point.

Origin: This phrase comes from Greek mythology, where Thetis dipped her son Achilles in the Styx, a river that was believed to be a source of incredible power and invulnerability. However, Thetis was holding her son by his heel, meaning it was the only part of his body that was not touched by water, making his heel vulnerable. Eventually, Achilles was killed by the shot of an arrow in his heel.

My Ears Are Burning

Meaning: One is subconsciously aware of being talked about or criticized.

Origin: The idiom dates to ancient Romans who believed that burning sensations in various organs had different meanings. In fact, it was believed that if your left ear is burning it signaled an evil intent, and if your right ear was burning you were being praised.

Cover Story



The Widows And Orphans Home Of The Independent Order Of Odd Fellows Of Kentucky

Though the pavement is covered with rain, the young ladies are not wearing rain slickers, but sailor suits in a female dress version complete with collar tie and service stripes on the sleeves.

As noted on the bass drumhead the 14 girls are members of the Odd Fellows Home Band of Lexington, Kentucky.

However, most of their instruments are not suitable for a marching band, but for a seated orchestra.

In June 1925 the girls' orchestra performed at a luncheon for a conference of the United Commercial Travelers, another national benevolent organization like the Odd Fellows but established for traveling salesmen. The event was held in the banquet room of a Lexington hotel, and about 225 "knights of the grip" with "their ladies" were entertained by the 14-piece orchestra in a program which included several solos. Miss Irene Crooks rendered a vocal solo, with a cornet solo by Miss Marie Minter and a trombone solo by Miss Etta Brewer. The other members of the orchestra were Misses Nellie Gross, Ruth Burchett, Margaret Schnitzler, Oggie Raynes, Thelma Showalter, Emily Spencer, Minnie Wood, Eva Fugate, Bessie Raynes, and Kemp Cline.

Prof. Ellis O. Kidd organized a boy's band in 1914 and the girls' orchestra a year later.

Around the country many I.O.O.F. lodges built institutional homes for widows and orphans as a benefit for their members. The one in Lexington opened in October 1898 on about 30 acres of farmland in the north corner of the city. By 1920 it could boast of several large buildings with separate dormitories for boys and girls. Though from the beginning the Lexington home served as a haven for both widows and orphans, it never took in many widows, and in 1916 they were transferred to another facility in Eminence, KY, about 50 miles northwest of Lexington.

Not all the children who lived at the home were there because both parents had died. In many cases the loss of one parent forced the surviving spouse to place their children in the care of the orphanage. For fathers it was usually their work that prevented them from having any time to properly raise their children. For mothers it was a different kind of financial burden as in this era women had very limited job opportunities and poverty compelled them to resort to a charitable institution like the Odd Fellows Home. In one personal story found online, a woman wrote a novel based on her grandmother's decision after the death of her husband to abandon her five children at the Odd Fellow's Home. The grandmother went on to remarry a man widowed with five children and then produced another five children. Such heartbreaking stories were sadly more common then because communities offered few if any social assistance programs.

In the 1920 census the orphanage was home to 121 children, with 66 females. The orphanage's population was smaller in 1910 with 110, and larger in 1930 with 155. The staff numbered about 15. The average age of an orphan at the home in 1920 was 12.6 years. Though several girls were listed as 17 or 18, there were no boys that age. The residents were released into the world when they reached a majority age, so this may have been earlier for boys at 16 when they had more employment opportunities than girls. There seemed to be more children 12 or older than younger children. It was sad to read a few ages carefully marked as 4 7/12, 3 11/12, and 3 10/12.

In the 1920 census, siblings at the orphanage were listed together under their surnames. Of the 121 children living at the home, 80 were there with another sibling, recorded under 27 family names, several in a family group of 4 and one with 5. Another interesting bit of detail recorded by the census taker was in annotations alongside the sheet columns. *"All in school. All over 6 years old can read and write. All born in Kentucky, (for child, father, and mother) All over 10 years old*

can speak English. All that are old enough worked at the Home."

The older children attended public schools in Lexington, but the home hired a teacher for the primary education of the youngest kids and provided the older one's training in domestic skills and farm trades. On the property the home also maintained a large garden farm which was reported to have a harvest in 1919 that, when canned, produced 328 gallons of corn, 600 gallons of tomatoes, 524 gallons of green beans, 320 gallons of sorghum, 51 gallons of jellies and preserves, 108 gallons assorted pickles, 55 gallons of catsup, and 38 gallons of peas, for total of 2,024 gallons.

Though the Odd Fellows had financial responsibility to support the orphanage, the home still needed money for numerous extra expenses like summer activities for the children. The Lexington Odd Fellows Home used their boys' band and girls' orchestra to raise funds from the public, either through private event programs or with ticketed public concerts. Every summer Prof. Kidd arranged to take one of his ensembles on a tour of Kentucky. In June 1920 the girls' orchestra traveled 735 miles over 10 days to towns near Lexington with a concert every day. A tour by the boys' band in 1921 raised over \$20,000 in pledges for a \$200,000 endowment. Postcards of the band and orchestra were a useful medium to promote the home and collect money from the sale of souvenir cards.

When Ellis O. Kidd was hired in 1914-15 to teach the Odd Fellows Home's band and orchestra, he had already established himself in Lexington as a talented and versatile musician. A Kentucky native born in 1865, since the late 1880s he had made his principal occupation in the city as a notable church organist and played cornet and trombone in several Lexington bands and theater orchestras. Over his long career performing and teaching music he held the position of choir leader/organist at a Baptist, Episcopal, and three Methodist churches. When Ellis O. Kidd died on 25 July 1941 after a long illness, the Lexington newspapers ran very appreciative obituaries. One noted that his mother had been a music teacher and that Ellis and his siblings had performed in a traveling family orchestra.

A few months before his death, Prof. E. O. Kidd conducted the Odd Fellows Home boys' band in a concert in March 1941. The boys' band would continue to be active at the Odd Fellows Home for another decade, but quietly vanished from newspaper reports after 1950. The girls' orchestra had a much shorter run of only 13 years with the last newspaper

report in May 1928. Perhaps the children found other activities of conflicting interest. This was about the time that school systems began to add band and orchestra programs to the curriculum. Teaching string instruments is more difficult and labor intensive than with a band's wind instruments. Keeping up with the two ensembles may have been too much work even for Prof. Kidd.

The Odd Fellows Home was not the only fraternal society orphanage in Lexington, as the Knights of Pythias also maintained a large institution there. In the early 1930's it had a girls' orchestra too which played public concerts. However, there was no mention of the orchestra's director.

Teaching children a musical instrument is a labor of love, both of children and music. Prof. Kidd's musical upbringing matches that of many directors, as in his era music was often an intimate part of family heritage.

It is remarkable that he passed on his own family's love of music to children who had tragically suffered the loss of their parents. That required a special level of devotion.

By the 1940 census the population of the Odd Fellows orphanage had declined to 61 from the 1930 count of 155 boys and girls. The Odd Fellows closed the Lexington Home in about 1970 and a few years later the property was used by the city for an urban renewal project.

An orphanage was one way that communities in past times responded to personal tragedy with moral obligation. No doubt some children found life in the orphanage a troubling, if not abusive, experience. For some orphans the shame and pain of abandonment left marks that were difficult to heal. But in several modern reports in the Lexington newspapers, the alumni of the Odd Fellows Home, now seniors with grandchildren of their own, talked of the friendships, the kindness, and education they received in this institution that became their home.

The Odd Fellows in Kentucky regularly celebrated a homecoming for their lodges, and in the summer of 1941 the convention was held in Lexington. To commemorate the occasion, a large group of alumni residents assembled on the portico for a photo. Undoubtedly many there that day spoke fondly of Prof. Kidd and remembered the music they played together as children. It's a typical homecoming photo, but it's a photo of a family too.



Editors Message:



Family of Odd Fellows and Rebekah's,
we send all our love and best wishes for a Verv Merrv Holiday.



They are Bronze 5" w x 3" h. The cost is \$80 with postage/shipping within continental US.



Prefer to receive this Newsletter via e-mail? Send me an email with your name and email address to bfortin59@gmail.com. Please use Subject: IOOF Newsletter via Email.

Getting Old

I was told by my doctor that I should start exercising. So, I joined an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, and jumped for an hour. By the time I put on my workout clothes, the class was over.

Grand Lodge of KY IOOF holds its annual session on 10 Oct 2023 at the Clarion Hotel, Lexington, KY.

What a great Grand Lodge session. Four candidates received their Grand Lodge degree, they were: Chris Dalton, Steve Stahle, Bruce Poteet, David Hamn.



Sovereign Deputy Grand Master Thomas Workman honored us with his visit.



ELECTED OFFICERS!! Congratulation to:
Grand Master George Brady, DGM Craig Stanfield,
GW Randy Harrison, Secretary PGM Arthur Light,
Treasure PGM Ross Webb.,

Awards given during Grand session and Dinner.

Charles Thomas received award for his duties as Sovereign Grand Lodge representative, Jere Muse, Victor Vogt and Darcy Owens awarded the Meritorious service award, PGM James Gibson and Charlie Thomas received SGL Award and Eddie Johnson ta SGL Certificate. Good job brothers and thanks for another successful year!





A very nice dinner was served, where friends and family came together in F, L&T.



A memorial service was held for our Odd Fellow and Rebekah family.

An emotional time as we honored and remember our deceased. Dekalb #12 Walter Hampton, Jerry Dean Moran, Tony Sapp, Richard Welsh.
Ringgold #27- James Branner
Emanuel #213- Bill Bell
Louisa #270- Carol Blackburn
Aaron #412- James B Wall