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The Odd Fellows Quarterly

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Deputy Grand Masters message

The passing of our newly elected Deputy Grand Master, Brother Jim Schaeffer, was both sudden and deeply heartbreaking. Our fraternity gathered at the J.C. Kirby & Son Chapel in Bowling Green to render the Odd Fellow Rites—an honor performed with solemn dignity, born of love, respect, and the sacred obligations that bind us together in Friendship, Love, and Truth.

As we continue to honor Brother Schaeffer's memory and service, it has been by proclamation that I, Bruce Fortin, advance to the office of Deputy Grand Master. I accept this responsibility with humility, gratitude, and a steadfast commitment to the principles of our Order.

In this role, my duties include:

Supporting the Grand Master in the governance and administration of the Grand Lodge.

Overseeing lodge operations across the jurisdiction to ensure harmony, accountability, and adherence to our laws and traditions.

Guiding subordinate lodges through counsel, visitation, and leadership.

Upholding the Ritual and ensuring that our ceremonies, teachings, and charitable works remain true to the spirit of Odd Fellowship.

Preparing for succession to the Grand Master's chair, ensuring continuity of leadership and vision for our Order.

Even in this time of loss, our fraternity remains strong. We continue to support our members, our communities, and our lodges with the same dedication that Brother Schaeffer exemplified throughout his life.

May his memory be a blessing, and may our work honor the legacy he leaves behind.

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92nd Pilgrimage Tomb of the Unknowns “Carrying the Honor of Odd Fellowship to Arlington”



The 92nd Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns was an experience that carried both emotional weight and deep honor. Upon arriving at Arlington National Cemetery, the sheer magnitude of the place struck me immediately — 693 acres, over 400,000 graves, and a silence that speaks with a power all its own. The initial emotional anxiety was real. Standing among those endless rows of markers, one cannot help but feel the cost of service and the responsibility of remembrance.

As the time approached for our participation, members of the Odd Fellows, Rebekah's, Patriarch Militant, Chevaliers, and Canton brothers and sisters gathered in the amphitheater for a brief but meaningful ceremony. The program opened with introductions, followed by a prayer from the Chaplain. **The Honorable Thomas J. Calabrese, Sovereign Grand Master and Commander-in-Chief**, present, the moment carried special significance.

Each participant had been assigned a bus number in their registration packet, and each received a certificate recognizing their role in the Pilgrimage. However, without the guidance of the individual in charge of our bus, we would have had no understanding of the procedure.

After the Changing of the Guard, we proceeded down the pathway to the far side of the Tomb. The wreaths were already arranged in order, determined by the sequence in which payments had been received — a detail that carries its own story. Once the Sovereign Grand Master arrived, the ceremony began. Two members of the Patriarch Militant stood at the base of the stairs. As each group approached, they veered left or right depending on which PM was available. The wreath was received, a salute or bow was offered, the wreath was placed, and the participant marched away. The process was smooth, respectful, and efficient. With only 37 wreaths this year, the ceremony moved steadily and with dignity.



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Despite the logistical challenges, the honor of representing the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at such a sacred site outweighed every difficulty. To stand in that place, to participate in a tradition that spans generations, and to carry forward the principles of **Friendship, Love, and Truth** in a setting built upon sacrifice — that is an experience that will remain with me always. May future Pilgrimages benefit from improved coordination. But the meaning, the honor, and the solemn purpose of this event need no improvement.



RINGGOLD LODGE CELEBRATES 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF IT'S EXISTENCE

Ringgold Lodge # 27, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Maysville, KY recently celebrated the 180th Anniversary of the Lodge Charter. Ringgold Lodge was chartered in May, 1846, named in honor of Major Samuel Ringgold. Samuel Ringgold (1796-1846), a graduate of the first Military Graduating Class of West Point Military Academy (1818), championed the strategy of "flying artillery", a military tactic/concept/strategy whereby artillery that could be maneuvered quickly during battle. During the Mexican-American War, under General Zachary Taylor, led an artillery brigade successfully employing the "flying artillery" concept, resulting in an American Victory.

However during the battle, he was fatally wounded, the first US Military Officer killed in the Mexican-American War, suffering from cannon fire that went through both legs, unhorsing him and leaving devastating wounds. Regardless, he refused to leave the active battlefield, dying 3 days later, dying a Hero's Death, and deemed a national hero, with news of his death and manner of death a symbol of national pride and recognition.

Twenty-one members attended a dinner at their Lodge structure situated on Lexington Street in Maysville (one member left before the photograph could be taken), a mix of members and associate members. Nine current and past Grand Masters were in attendance at the meeting, and the current Noble Grand and numerous Past Noble Grands, with most of the attendees having served or currently serving as Lodge officers. Following the photo session, the members enjoyed a celebratory dinner.



Members and Associate Members of Ringgold Lodge # 27 present for the Celebration of the 180th Anniversary of the Charter Signing of the Lodge (May, 1846).

Front Row, left to right: 1) John Redmond, 2) Joseph Hazlett, 3) Fred Toncray, 4) Dale Helphinstine. Second row (l to r): 5). Fred Roberts, 6) Past Grand Master George Brady, 7) Tim Douglas, 8) Mark Maynard, 9) Allan Levay, 10) Dewey Applegate, 11) Mike Denham. Third row, (l to r): 12) Past Grand Master Charles Thomas, 13) Past Grand Master Gary Bowers, 14) Irving Peck, 15) Kirk Clarke Fourth Row (l to r): 16) Past Grand Master Craig Stanfield, 17) Grand Master Randy Harrison, 18) Past Grand Master Eddie Johnson, 19) Past Grand Master Jerry Muse, 20) Past Grand Master Mike Stitt.

Past Grand Master Tim Greifenkamp left before the photo was taken.

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Common Sayings

Go Bananas

Meaning: Insane or extremely silly.

Origin: The word 'banana' is an inherently funny word. The expression to "go bananas" has no conclusive origin, but it may be linked to 'go ape' which became popular in the 1950's when monkeys were being launched on rockets and were a popular subject in films and TV. The link between monkeys, bananas and crazy behavior may have been the catalyst for the popularization of the expression. Bananas have often been central to slapstick comedy in general, with somebody slipping on a banana peel a timeless classic. Early in the 20th century people used to say 'that's banana oil' when referring to a nonsense, and the expression 'banana republic' was pejoratively used to refer to a chaotic, backward little country that wasn't to be taken seriously. Bananas!

Called On The Carpet

Meaning: Being severely reprimanded by someone in authority.

Origin: Like many idioms, the precise origin of this one is not entirely certain. While nowadays the expression is used to refer to a reprimand, originating from the days when a servant was called from their bare-floored quarters to get an ear-bashing from the boss in carpeted opulence, there is an alternative theory to its true origins. The word 'carpet' used to refer to a thick cloth that could be placed anywhere, often on a table. Therefore, 'on the carpet' used to mean that an issue was on the table, or up for discussion.

Show A Leg

Meaning: Get out of bed; get up.

Origin: Just before the ships were about to leave port, sailors would try to sneak in a lady and hide them in their hammock. Before leaving, officers would ask anyone in a hammock to 'show a leg.' If a hairless leg appeared, the woman was asked to leave the ship quickly.

By And Large

Meaning: On the whole; everything considered.

Origin: A phrase that is usually used as a synonym for 'all things considered' originates from the 16th century, where the word 'large' meant that a ship was sailing with the wind at its back. Meanwhile the word 'by' meant the opposite, that the ship was sailing into the wind. The mariners used the phrase 'by and large' to refer to sailing in any and all directions, relative to the wind.

Leaf peeper

In New England, visitors who arrive in the autumn to enjoy the colorful foliage and are a big part of the rural tourist economy, are "leaf peepers." The term most likely came from Vermont in the mid-20th century.

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A DREAM COME TRUE IN CYNTHIANA

For years, Cynthiana IOOF Lodge No. 127 has dreamed of restoring its historic downtown building — not only to preserve its past, but to breathe new life into its future. Today, that dream is finally taking shape through a remarkable partnership with local artist and entrepreneur Julieanna Banks and her business, **Following My Dream Shop**.

What began as a simple landlord-tenant conversation nearly two years ago has grown into a shared mission rooted in community, creativity, and the Odd Fellows commitment to **Friendship, Love, and Truth**.

A Building in Need — and a Vision Worth Fighting For

The first floor of the Lodge building had been in serious need of restoration for quite some time. Early discussions with Julieanna showed promise, but structural issues forced delays. With support from the **Grand Lodge**, Lodge 127 eventually resolved those concerns — only to find that the opportunity window for Following My Dream Shop had closed.

Another tenant came and went. The space sat empty again. The dream felt stalled. But dreams have a way of circling back.

Julieanna returned with renewed interest, and both sides recognized the same truth: this historic space had potential worth fighting for. Through financial investment, sacrifice, and countless hours of sweat equity from both the Lodge and the Banks family, the project began to transform from a rental agreement into a genuine partnership.

Family Business Expands — and Community Benefits

Following My Dream Shop is now preparing to open its doors in the revitalized Lodge space — and the timing couldn't be better. Julieanna recently announced **Phase 2** of her business: the expansion of **Banks Woodworking**, led by her husband Adam and their sons Clayton and (soon) JC. Together, they are bringing custom woodworking, handcrafted furniture, restoration projects, and creative production space to downtown Cynthiana.

Their first workshop in the new location, **“Created to Create,”** launches in early June. Blending hands-on creative projects with Bible study and fellowship, the program encourages participants to embrace creativity as a gift from God — a message that aligns beautifully with the Odd Fellows mission of uplifting humanity and strengthening the connection between mankind and their Creator.

A Lodge Moving Forward

This partnership marks another major step in Cynthiana Lodge 127's ongoing effort to modernize, restore, and reintroduce Odd Fellowship values to the community. In recent years, the Lodge has:

- Updated century-old bylaws
- Modernized bookkeeping practices
- Restored and improved its historic property
- Launched a Facebook presence
- Researched and preserved lodge history
- Continued to grow membership and community engagement

And now, with Following My Dream Shop breathing new life into the building, the Lodge is once again becoming a visible, active part of downtown Cynthiana.



2026 Leadership Team

Tom Nitschke, Noble Grand
Peter Gallagher, Secretary

Patricia Clapp, Vice Grand
Ed Tutewiler, Treasurer

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Robert Howell and his sister, Edith Gill, were driving through Shelbyville when they noticed an elderly man struggling to cross a busy road. He was pushing a small two-wheeled pickup-style stroller, clearly having difficulty and clearly alone.

Moved by **faith**, compassion, and the Odd Fellows' charge to "*visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan,*" they stopped to help. After speaking with him and obtaining his address, Robert and Edith returned later with a brand-new **roller-style walker**—a gift chosen to make his daily life safer and easier.

They spent time with the gentleman, **Beverly Crawford**, who shared that he lives alone and has little support. He was deeply grateful for the kindness shown to him and for the new walker that will help him move with confidence.

This simple act of charity reflects the very heart of the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows**—quiet service, humble compassion, and the belief that faith is best shown through deeds. A prospective Odd Fellow? Time will tell.

THE BROTHERS WHO DIDN'T SMILE — A Cynthiana Lodge No. 127 Mystery

Some photos make you laugh. This one makes you wonder.

Twelve Odd Fellows, dressed in their best coats and ties, gathered for a portrait that refuses to give up its secrets. Not a single smile among them — just the steady, serious expressions of men who carried the weight of their lodge, their families, and their community with quiet pride.

This photograph recently resurfaced in the archives of Cynthiana Lodge No. 127, tucked away with no names, no date, and no explanation. Just the faces of brothers who once stood shoulder-to-shoulder in Friendship, Love, and Truth. We're asking the community to help us identify these men.

Someone in Cynthiana may still remember a grandfather, an uncle, a neighbor, or a friend who once sat for this very picture. If you recognize anyone, please reach out — every name helps restore a piece of our lodge's history.

Odd Fellows never truly disappear.

Their stories wait patiently to be told.



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