

THE KENTUCKY ODDFELLOW

Editor Bruce Fortin

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GRAND MASTER VISITS MUSEUM

On Sunday, February 10th, Grand Master Craig Stanfield visited the Taft Museum in Cincinnati to view their exhibit MYSTERY AND BENEVOLENCE which consists of Odd Fellows and Masonic (as well as a few pieces from other Fraternal Organizations) Paraphernalia. The exhibit is IMPRESSIVE to anyone interested in the early history of the Odd Fellows and/or Masonic Orders. Surprisingly MOST of the items on display are from Odd Fellows Lodges! While we are vastly outnumbered by Masonic Lodges/Members today, perhaps (unfortunately) the closing of numerous Odd Fellows Lodges over the past 50 years or more is why there are more Odd Fellows items on display than Masonic items. Perhaps this is due to the number of Lodges that have closed allowing paraphernalia (unfortunately) to become more available to the public to acquire more so than that of Masonic Order Lodges. I expected most items to be Masonic, but I was delighted by the impressive Odd Fellows collection on display. I was also VERY SURPRISED at the number of people viewing the exhibit and how the scheduled "discussion" (which was scheduled for 2 pm) had sold out well in advance of what my planning (which was rather spontaneous) would permit.

Anyway: The exhibit was impressive in several ways: 1). The paraphernalia was well spaced and well grouped (there was only one grouping that I could take a photo of but could not include Masonic items in the photo). 2). The items were described so as to provide meaning and relevance to even people with no familiarity with either Odd Fellowship or Masonic culture. 3). Some people had obviously searched for very good representative material for their collection (there were items from New York, Pennsylvania, and a number of

additional states on display). 4). The paraphernalia was of excellent quality (with some unique "one-of-a-kind" pieces on display).

Lastly: If you are interested in history, particularly that of Odd Fellowship, and are one who would enjoy a museum, viewing the collection is --- in my opinion -- a worthwhile expenditure of your time. ALSO: If you go, DO NOT miss the opportunity to view a Rembrandt painting (the Rembrandt is titled "Portrait of a Man Rising from His Chair" and was created in 1633)! While it is not a part of the Mystery and Benevolence Exhibit, it is available to view as part of the museum's permanent collection. Oh, and if you go on Sunday or Monday, admission is FREE (although I do not know if the discussion is free)! Even parking in the parking garage below the Museum is free. And not only is it free to view the MYSTERY AND BENEVOLENCE exhibit, but to view the permanent collection of art and other exhibits currently available for view (*and yes, that includes viewing the Rembrandt too!!!*).



INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS, MARQUETRY TABLE, CA. 1933
James J. Crozier, a carpenter from Islip, New York, made this intricately decorated
marquetry table. It's surface features pieced inlays to create the prominent letters
F*L*T and IOOF with the 3 links, the "All-Seeing-Eye" and the "Heart In Hand"
Likely crafted for the Odd Fellows Lodge in Islip, New York. According to the
Directory of Subordinate Lodges, Independent Order of Odd Fellows of North
America, 1913, the Lodge in Islip, New York was AWTXA # 574.

An ornate Odd Fellows marquetry table, available to view at the Taft Museum Exhibit, Mystery & Benevolence, Odd Fellows and Masonic Items, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This exhibit is going on NOW and will continue through May 11th. Sundays and Mondays are free admission, and they have a parking garage. The Taft Museum is located on Pike Street in downtown Cincinnati. Not only is admission free on Sundays and Mondays, you have access to the whole museum, and it permits you to see a fine art display including a painting by Rembrandt and a painting by Whistler (they also currently have a collection of ornate enamelware). The piece photographed was the piece that I was most impressed with at the Exhibit but is only one of many Odd Fellows items on display.

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Wolf In Sheep's Clothing

Meaning: A person or thing that appears friendly or harmless but is really hostile.

Origin: The warning that you can't necessarily trust someone who appears kind and friendly on the outside is centuries old, dating back to the bible. In the English language, The King James Version of the Bible, from 1611, has this passage in Matthew 7:15: Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves.

Pulling Someone's Leg

Meaning: deceive someone playfully; tease someone.

Origin: While there is no evidence to back up these claims, there are two popular theories for the origins of this playful expression, neither of them particularly playful. The first relates to thieves in medieval times, who apparently pulled on the legs of their victims to trip them, and swiftly make off with their booty. The second theory comes from the Tyburn, the principal place of execution in Ye Olde England. It referred to the so-called 'hangers-on' who tugged at the legs of people being hanged to give them a mercifully swift death. Neither of these theories are really plausible however, so the search for the true origin continues.

Let Your Hair Down

Meaning: Behave uninhibitedly.

Origin: It was an important rule between Parisian nobles to wear elaborate hairdos while in public, and some of the looks required hours of long work. Clearly, a moment of taking your hair down after a long day became associated with a relaxing ritual.

To Sell Someone Down the River

Meaning: Betray someone, especially so as to benefit oneself.

Origin: This idiom comes from 19th century, in the Southern states of America. During this period it was already illegal to import slaves, so there would be internal trades where people would ship slaves down the Mississippi river and sell them at the market. For this reason, 'selling someone down the river' symbolizes betraying someone and using them for your own good.

Who are the Odd Fellows? Hopkinsville's connection to an international order

The Hopkinsville chapter, established in 1848, was once the wealthiest lodge in Kentucky.

- [by Daniel Hurt](#)
- Published: 9:43 pm Feb. 1, 2025

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization originating in England in the 1700s that spread to



America in the early 1800s, represented trades not covered by other groups like the Masons. The Hopkinsville chapter, established in 1848, was once the wealthiest lodge in Kentucky. The Odd Fellows focused on community support, including visiting the sick, burying the dead, and educating orphans, before formal welfare systems existed. The Museum of

Historic Hopkinsville-Christian County, in partnership with Hopkinsville Brewing Company, hosts a monthly event called "History on Tap," which invites the community to patronize the brewery and hear a presentation on history with a local connection.

Learning Coordinator of the Museums of Historic Hopkinsville-Christian County Brett Pritchett said their local chapter of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was located in an old building in downtown Hopkinsville that has some odd initials on the outside of it.

The Odd Fellows Building at Ninth and Virginia streets. (Hoptown Chronicle photo by Jennifer P. Brown)

"We have a really cool old building on the corner of Ninth and Virginia Street. And a lot of people make comments about it because it has the initials I, O, O, F, some dates, and then a three link chain with the letters F, L and T on it. And people have no idea what that is," said Pritchett. "And it's actually the old lodge house of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows chapter here in Hopkinsville."

The Odd Fellows were not odd as in strange, but odd meaning outside the traditional trades that would have a lodge, similar to carpenters and masons. This would instead be for the nontraditional or those who had no other home.

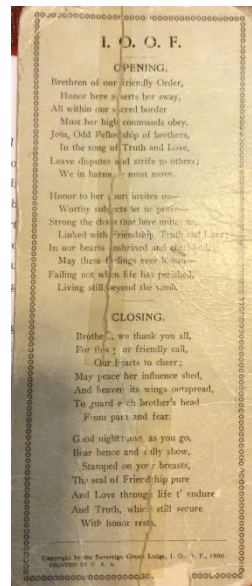
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“The Odd Fellows were a fraternal organization that started back in England in the 1700s and they eventually came to America in the early 1800s. The first chapter was in Baltimore, and then eventually opened chapter houses in all the states at the time. And they were a fraternal organization like the Masons, but they weren’t odd because they were strange. They were odd because they represented trades that were not represented by those other fraternal groups. For example, it could be anything from being a merchant at a store to any kind of trade that might not be represented in your specific community.”

Pritchett said that if a mill opened up and a brick mason did not have an organization that supported mill workers, then they could join the Odd Fellows and have a support unit. After the order began in Baltimore, Maryland, it spread all over the country, with the Hopkinsville lodge opening in 1848 and lasting until a little over a decade ago



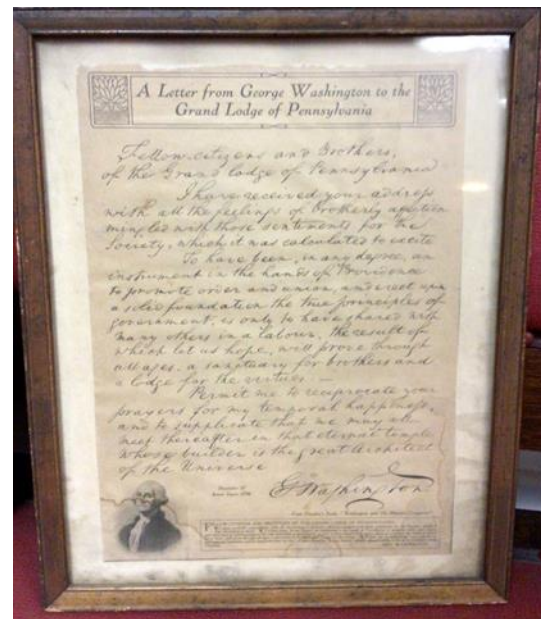
Br Bruce Fortin, PNG Aaron Lodge #412 visited Lorraine Lodge #4. I was impressed with the amenities and history of the lodge and the friendly welcome of its members. Business of the Lodge was professional and interesting, Each Lodge is unique in its way meetings are held, and the commaraderie of the members within.



What was interesting to me was singing the IOOF Opening and closing Ode. This in itself gave the atmosphere a special meaning. It’s a wonder the place didn’t clear out when I sang! I urge all to visit other Lodges.

@ Letter from . . . George!

An item that immediately caught my attention at Lorraine #4 was a letter written to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.



Fellow citizens and brothers, of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

I have received your address with all the feelings of brotherly affection mingled with those sentiments for the society, which it was calculated to create.

To have been, and any degree, an instrument in the hands of providence to promote order and union, and create upon a solid foundation the true principles of government, is only to have shared with many others in a labour, the result often which let us hope, will prove through all ages a sanctuary for brothers and a lodge for the virtues.

Permit me to reciprocate your prayers for my temporal happiness and to supplicate that we may all meet thereafter in that eternal temple whose builder is the great architect of the universe

December 27, 1796

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In Mourning



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Mary Bell



Mary Jane Snodgrass Bell, 92, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 10, 2025, at Cedar Ridge Health Campus. Born August 31, 1932, in Cynthiana to the late James William & Hattie Jane Alley Snodgrass. Mary Jane Snodgrass Bell, a dedicated educator and musician, passed away at the age of 92. She was a

lifelong member of the Cynthiana Baptist Church and the Rebekah Assembly of Kentucky, holding numerous positions and receiving several honors.

She married her high school sweetheart, Henry Leon Bell, in January of 1955 after his return from service in Korea. Mary Jane was a 74-year member of the Rebekah Assembly of Kentucky, Independent Order of Oddfellows.

Roger Hendrickson



January 21, 53 year member of Ringgold Lodge # 27 Maysville, KY (also an Associate member of Dekalb Lodge # 12, Maysville, KY) Roger Hendrickson was laid to rest following a long illness.

Odd Fellows Rites were performed by Grand Master Craig Stanfield (Ringgold Lodge/Dekalb Lodge associate) and Ron Rice (Dekalb Lodge), with Dewey Applegate (Secretary Ringgold Lodge) reading

the Resolution of Respect. Approximately 25 Odd Fellows members participated in the Rites Processional. The service and rites were performed at Crosspointe Community Church, 825 Kenton Station Road in Maysville. Sincerely, Craig Stanfield, Grand Master, Kentucky Grand Lodge



Odd Fellow Collectables

Who collects Odd Fellow memorabilia? What inspires one to collect anything? Here are some reasons:

Collectors often appreciate the historical significance of the items.

Nostalgia and Sentimental Value: For some, collecting Odd Fellows memorabilia is a way to connect with their ancestors or relive memories associated with the organization.

Community and Identity: Being part of a community of collectors can be fulfilling. It provides a sense of belonging and identity, as well as opportunities to share and trade items.

The Thrill of Hunt: The process of finding rare and unique items can be exciting and rewarding.

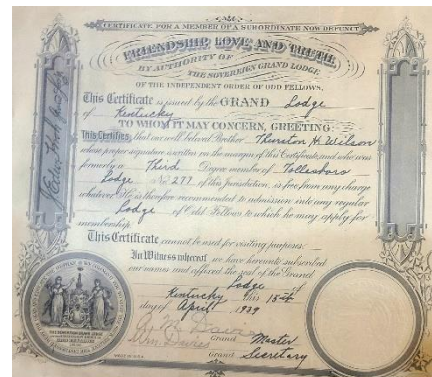
Investment: Some collectors view memorabilia as a financial investment.

Aesthetic Appreciation: Many Odd Fellows items, such as ribbons, medallions, and pins, are beautifully crafted and visually appealing.

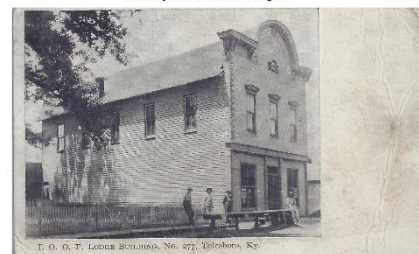
From the collection of Deputy Grand Master Randy Harrison:

Attached are copies of Odd Fellows documents related to Tollesboro IOOF Lodge #277 Tollesboro and Concord IOOF Lodge # 260. These lodges were both located in Lewis Co., KY --- the county which both he and I call home (thus the

reason that he shared them with me. In 1913, Lewis County had 8 Odd Fellows lodges, however, none of these are active today). I recently sent you early postcard views of these two IOOF Lodge halls, so I attached the photos to the documents). These Lodges are no longer active (although the Lodge Halls in which they met are both still standing although the Tollesboro Lodge Hall did burn down and was rebuilt well over a century ago).



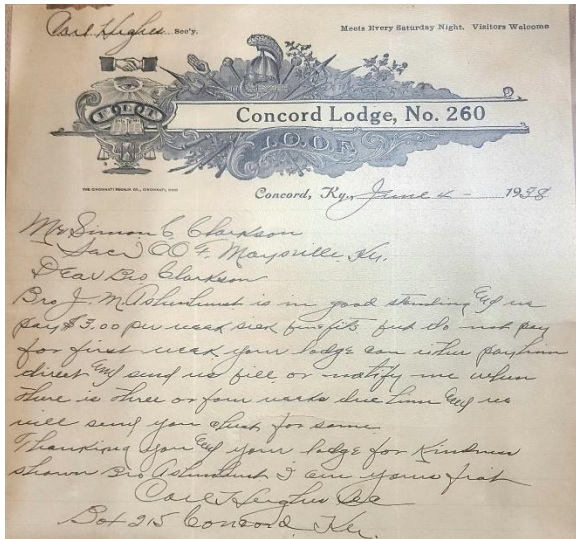
1939 IOOF Document relating to member of Tollesboro Lodge # 277 (which at that time was defunct) permitting a member in good standing of said Lodge to adjoin a new Lodge.



Tollesboro IOOF Lodge @ 277, 1908 Postcard

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Craig A. Stanfield
Grand Master Grand Lodge of KY



Document from Concord, KY IOOF Lodge # 260 relative to sick benefits for a member.



1909 Postcard of the Concord KY IOOF Lodge # 260

ODD FELLOWS LODGES OF THE PAST, LEWIS CO., KY



Concord Lodge I.O.O.F. # 260 post card view (circa 1909), located at Concord, Lewis Co., KY.
According to the Oct. 17, 1877 Vanceburg Courier "Concord Lodge No. 260 I.O.O.F. held their first meeting in their new hall Sept. 29th. They own the property. S. G. Hillis was unanimously elected Representative to Grand Lodge to convene in Louisville October 23rd.
This building still stands in Concord.



Tollesboro I.O.O.F. Lodge # 277 1908 post card view - the first person is identified as "Mr. Conaway" on the back of the postcard, Tollesboro, Lewis Co., KY.



Trinity Odd Fellows Lodge # 161 Trinity post card view (circa 1910), located at Trinity (also known as Sand Hill), Lewis County, Kentucky.
This building still stands in Trinity.



Tollesboro Main Street view with the Tollesboro I.O.O.F. Lodge # 277 on the right side of the card in this 1909 colorized post card view. While the Lodge building was constructed in a fire (that took out both sides of the street including the "red" building shown here), the Lodge building was rebuilt and stands to this day on KY 10.

Lewis Co., Kentucky boasted numerous Odd Fellows Lodges (as well as Encampments, Cantons, and Orders of Masonic, Improved Order of Redmen, Elks, Knights of Pythias, Jr. OUAM - Order of United American Mechanics, Sons of Temperance, and more), including: BURTONVILLE # 114; GARRISON # 147; TRINITY # 161; # 197 QUICKS RUN at MARTIN; # 210 PETERSVILLE; # 260 CONCORD; # 277 TOLLESBORO; # 301 VANCEBURG.



Best Odd Fellows pocket watch I've ever seen! Lots of Odd Fellows, Encampment and Canton symbolism; in addition, the globe design at the bottom is representative of "International" or "Worldwide". Watch made by the Elgin National Watch Co., Elgin, Illinois; size 18s (large); Hunter "Sidewinder" (winding stem at "3" rather than "12"), with open-face obverse and reverse (no dust cover on front or reverse; the lens on reverse permits you to view the movement); lever-set; 17 jewel; in working condition; serial number (4933988) indicates an approximate date of manufacture of 1893. With chain and Odd Fellows fob (which also has lots of symbolism). Case is unmarked, but since it is a swing-out works timepiece, unmarked, it is probably some kind of nickel-plated metal, and probably from the factory/Elgin.

This pocket watch is now in my personal collection (purchased on Ebay in February 2024; the fob - brass - which I purchased separately, also has a lot of symbolism and is not "regionalized" by the inclusion of a state or event). I thought you might want to place it in the newsletter sometime on a "slow news day", a day when you don't have a lot to include.

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Notice from Grand Master Stanfield.

Members of Prestonsburg Lodge and Pikeville Lodge suffered damage from the weather disaster. Dekalb Lodge has taken up and donated money to go to the two Lodges to support these members.

A little history of a couple Lodges in Kentucky.

KENTUCKY.

March 5th, 1833, a petition was presented from N. Estling, S. S. Lyon, S. Waters, T. H. Breece, G. G. Wright, J. Barclay, J. J. Roach, and T. Mayberry, (working under a Dispensation from the Grand Sire,) for a Charter for Boone Lodge, No. 1, at Louisville, and it was granted. The Lodge was instituted January 24th, 1833.

September 1st, 1835, a petition was presented from J. J. Roach, John Hawkins, Stephen Barclay, Joseph Metcalf, S. S. Lyon, Joseph Barclay, Henry Wolford, Thomas Devan, and Benjamin Moses, Past Grands, praying for a Charter for a Grand Lodge at Louisville. It was granted the same day and the Grand Lodge was instituted September 14th, 1836, when the following Officers were installed: Wm. S. Wolford, G. M.; A. W. R. Harris, D. G. M.; Charles Q. Black, G. Sec.; Henry Wolford, G. T.

August 18th, 1834, a petition was presented from Joseph Barclay, Stephen Barclay, Thos. H. Brice, H. Wolford, George Scott, John Hawkins, Joseph Metcalf, F. Samiento, Wm. Hunt, W. P. Canby, H. H. Moray, and Patriarch J. J. Roach, for an Encampment of Patriarchs at Louisville, to be known as Mt. Horeb Encampment, No. 1. The Encampment was instituted in 1834.

The Grand Encampment was instituted at Louisville, November 21st, 1839, when the following Officers were installed: Henry Wolford, G. P.; Peleg Kidd, G. H. P.; Levi White, G. S. W.; Jesse Vansickle, G. J. W.; S. S. Barnes, G. Scr.; John Thomas, G. T.

December 31st, 1886, there were 168 Subordinate Lodges and 6,948 members; 36 Encampments and 1,561 members; 22 Rebekah Degree Lodges and 806 members.



Three Links Odd Fellows Home- Paducah KY. Better known as the Odd Fellows Society, the International Independent Order of Odd Fellows is one of the oldest fraternal organizations. The first Odd Fellows Hall in Paducah was established in 1845, and eventually 14 Odd Fellow lodges were established in Paducah. For many years, the lodges operated in this magnificent home.

One notable figure associated with the Odd Fellows in Paducah is Charles H. Brooks, born in Paducah in 1859. An African American He was a lawyer, businessman, and writer who contributed to the official history of the Odd Fellows Fraternity and represented the organization at the International Conference of Odd Fellows in Europe in 1900.

Colored Lodges - Paducah, KY

An early listing of the Colored lodges is on p. 3 of the Paducah Daily Sun, 11/16/1896. The Masonic Hall was located at 224 Broadway, where meetings took place on the third floor. Later lists can be found in Caron's Paducah Directory for the Years 1914-1915 and For the Years 1918-1919. Below is a combined list of the Colored lodges found in both directories.

Colored Lodges that met at the Odd Fellows Hall on Adams Street:

Household No. 126
Household of Ruth No.48
Juvenile No.6
Paducah Lodge No.1545
Past Grand Masters Council No. 79
Patriarchs No. 48
Ruth House No. 1455
Sisters of the Mysterious Ten, Golden Rule Temple
Sisters of the Mysterious Ten, St. Mary Temple
United Brothers of Friendship, Rising Star Juvenile
Western Kentucky No.2831
Young Men's Pride No. 1783

<https://nkaa.uky.edu/nkaa/index.php/items/show/2520>

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