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The Odd Fellows Quarterly

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Semí quíncentenníal

A Message from the Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Kentucky

As our nation approaches its Semi quíncentenníal in 2026—the 250th anniversary of American independence—we are presented with a meaningful opportunity to highlight the enduring relevance of Odd Fellowship in our communities. This historic milestone invites us to reflect on our shared past while strengthening the principles of **Friendship, Love, and Truth** that guide our Order.

To support lodge planning, the Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky is pleased to share **optional ideas** that any lodge—large or small—may choose to adopt. These are **not mandates, not official proclamations, and not directives from the Grand Lodge or Sovereign Grand Lodge**. They are simply suggestions offered to help lodges participate in a way that fits their membership, resources, and local traditions.

Ceremonies & Programs

- **Strengthen the American Chain** – Add a symbolic *250th Link* to the Three Links, reaffirming Friendship, Love, and Truth.
- **250 Lights of Liberty** – Light 250 candles or symbolic lights in the shape of the Three Links or the American flag.
- **Odd Fellows & America Program** – Present a short history of the Order's contributions to American life.
- **Founders & Patriots Tribute** – Honor U.S. founders, veterans, and Odd Fellows with a candle or wreath ceremony.
- **Time Capsule for 2076** – Create a lodge time capsule for America's 300th anniversary

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Community & Charity Initiatives

- 250 acts of kindness
- 250 trees planted
- 250 volunteer hours
- 250 flags placed on veterans' graves
- 250 backpacks for children
- 250 Odd Fellow grave markers cleaned
- 250 crosses for unmarked graves
- 250 blood donations

"As America celebrates 250 years of independence, Odd Fellows can proudly reflect that our principles were already being practiced in 1776. The spirit of mutual aid and fraternity that shaped our Order was alive during the very year our nation was born."

Lodges may report completed projects to the Grand Lodge for inclusion in the official

America 250 Record of Service.

Public Outreach & Celebration

Lodges are encouraged to participate in community events such as:

- Parades and patriotic celebrations
- Lodge open houses
- Historical displays
- Community picnics or festivals
- "Odd Fellows Day of Service" events



These activities help share our values and strengthen community ties. These ideas are **voluntary, flexible, and intended only as inspiration.** Lodges should feel free to adapt, modify, or create their own ways to honor America's 250th anniversary.

Participation is entirely at the discretion of each lodge.



The chain of Liberty



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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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In the Spotlight

Kris and Jessica York

Serving the Community Through Faith, Work, and Service

Kristopher York is dedicated to serving the Bowling Green community through his professional work, volunteer commitments, and faith-centered outreach. He currently works with Goodwill Industries in the *Another Way* program, an initiative designed to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

Through this program, Kristopher and his team offer daily opportunities to people who are unhoused—whether they are staying in shelters, living in vehicles, or residing in encampments. Participants are picked up each morning, provided the chance to work for the day, receive a lunch meal, and are paid at the end of their shift. In addition to providing immediate income, the program connects individuals with essential community resources, including housing programs, drug and alcohol treatment centers, transitional housing, sober-living programs, and other nonprofit services that help people move toward stability and long-term recovery.



Beyond his professional responsibilities, Kristopher devotes significant time to volunteer service. He regularly volunteers at treatment centers, participates in jail outreach by speaking with inmates and helping lead classes, and works alongside ministry partners both inside and outside correctional facilities. His mission is to offer encouragement, hope, and practical support to those facing some of life's most difficult challenges.

Kristopher is also an active member of The Gideons International, where he takes part in community outreach efforts such as distributing Bibles, praying with individuals, and sharing messages of faith and hope with those in need.

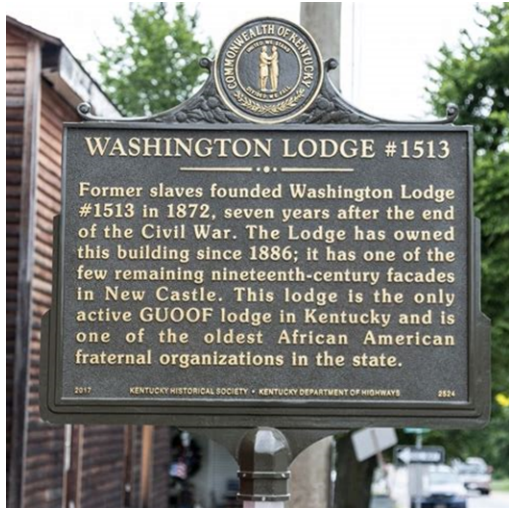
Continuing a family tradition of service, Kristopher followed in the footsteps of his father, who has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for more than two decades. Feeling called to join this historic brotherhood, Kristopher became a member and now serves as Vice Grand of Aeolian Lodge #51. He takes great pride in the Order's long-standing commitment to charity, fellowship, and service to the community.

Kristopher's dedication to service is shared by his wife Jessica, who also devotes her career to helping others. She works with the nonprofit Life Skills at the Park Place treatment center, supporting individuals facing mental health and substance-use challenges. Together, they are committed to serving their community and living out their faith by helping others find hope, healing, and opportunity.

Through their combined efforts in nonprofit work, ministry, and community outreach, Kristopher and his wife, Jessica, continue to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of many throughout the Bowling Green area.

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Washington Lodge No. 1513: A Kentucky Treasure Fighting for Its Future



For more than **150 years**, Washington Lodge No. 1513 of the **Grand United Order of Odd Fellows** has stood on South Main Street in New Castle, Kentucky. Founded in **1872 by formerly enslaved men**, the lodge became one of the most important African American fraternal institutions in the state — a place where families found support, widows found protection, and a newly freed community found its voice.

The lodge purchased its current brick building in **1886**, and for generations it served as a meeting hall, social center, and anchor of civic life. It is now recognized as **the oldest active African American Odd Fellows lodge in Kentucky**, a distinction that places it among the most historically significant fraternal sites in the Commonwealth.

But time has not been kind. A **roof collapse in 2015** left the interior exposed to the elements, and the building has been in a fragile state ever since. Floors have weakened, vegetation has crept inside, and the structure shows the scars of a decade of weathering. Yet the spirit of the lodge remains unbroken.



Today, a small but determined group of members — many of them elders who grew up in the lodge — are working to

save the building before it is lost. Their efforts have drawn renewed attention from preservationists, local historians, and Kentuckians who understand the importance of protecting African American heritage sites.



The lodge is now incorporated as **WASHINGTON LODGE #1513, INC**, giving it the ability to apply for grants and coordinate restoration work. Community volunteers have stepped in, and awareness is growing across the state.

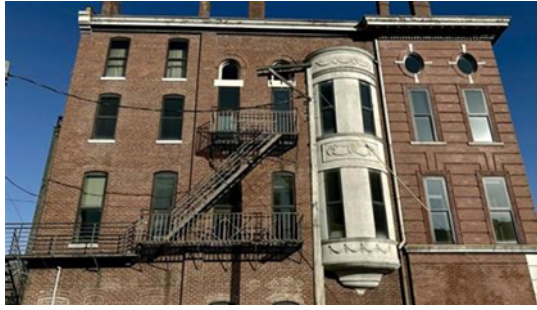
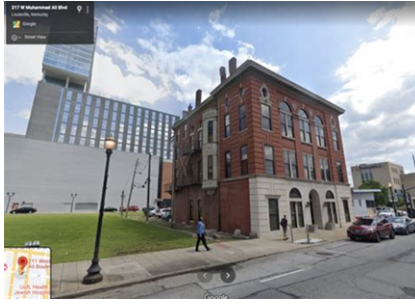
Saving Washington Lodge No. 1513 is more than a construction project. It is an act of remembrance — a commitment to honor the men who built it, the families it served, and the generations who kept its light burning through segregation, hardship, and change.

As Odd Fellows, we understand the value of preserving the places where friendship, love, and truth were lived out in real time. Washington Lodge No. 1513 is one of those places.

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While one is restored another is in danger of vanishing forever-

Odd Fellows Liberty Hall — Louisville, KY (Endangered / Proposed for Demolition)



Status: Actively threatened

Location: 211 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., Louisville

Built: 1890s- IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows)

Current Threat:

- Omni Hotel has filed plans for a \$12 million pickleball-focused entertainment complex.
- Their plan requires demolition of Liberty Hall, which they own.
- The building lost its historic status in 2021, making demolition easier.
- Preservationists, including the Louisville Historical League, are publicly opposing the plan.
- **The building has been vacant and boarded since 2019.**

Why it matters:

This is one of the last surviving IOOF-connected structures in downtown Louisville. Once gone, the city loses a major piece of fraternal and civic history.

Mailing woes

“O Envelope, Wherefore Art Thou Stamped?”

O envelope, wherefore art thou stamped?
Deny thy naked corner and take this seal!
For Bruce, thy humble servant, sits encamped
'Midst piles of paper — oh, the postal ordeal.

Four hundred names he speaketh to the air,
Some noble, some peculiar, some absurd;
“Good Brother Snodgrass!” echoes everywhere,
A name that soundeth like a startled bird.

He peebleth stamps with fingers worn and sore,
A knight of glue, a warrior of the fold;
His coffee cold, his patience less than yore,
Yet still his steadfast spirit waxeth bold.

“Attend thee, Brother O’Shaughnessy,” he cries,
“Thy dues unpaid, thy Buick still intact!”
And Brother Zebediah — what surprise —
Doth sound like one who smiths a sword, in fact.

At last the final missive sealed is done,
The battlefield of paper now laid low;
Bruce standeth tall — the weary, valiant one —
And sends his Oddest letters forth to go.

So let the Commonwealth rejoice this day,
For through his toil, the news of Lodge is spread;
And somewhere, in a distant lodge away,
A brother reads and nods his grateful head.

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