

150th ANNIVERSARY
of
CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 234

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Constituted November 14th, A.D. 1848, A.L. 5848



SEPTEMBER 12, 1998

**PROGRAM FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE
ONE HUNDRED & FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF
CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 234, F. & A. M.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER TWELFTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHT**

Lodge will be opened at 2:00 o'clock P.M.

The Lodge to receive the Grand Lodge Officers.

History of the Lodge.

Presentation of Grand Lodge Fifty Year Masonic Service Emblems.

Remarks by . District Deputy Grand Master, Richard E. Lawhead
and Presentation of R. W. Grand Master James L. Ernette

Address by R. W. Grand Master James L. Ernette

Retire Grand Lodge Officers.

Closing of the Lodge.

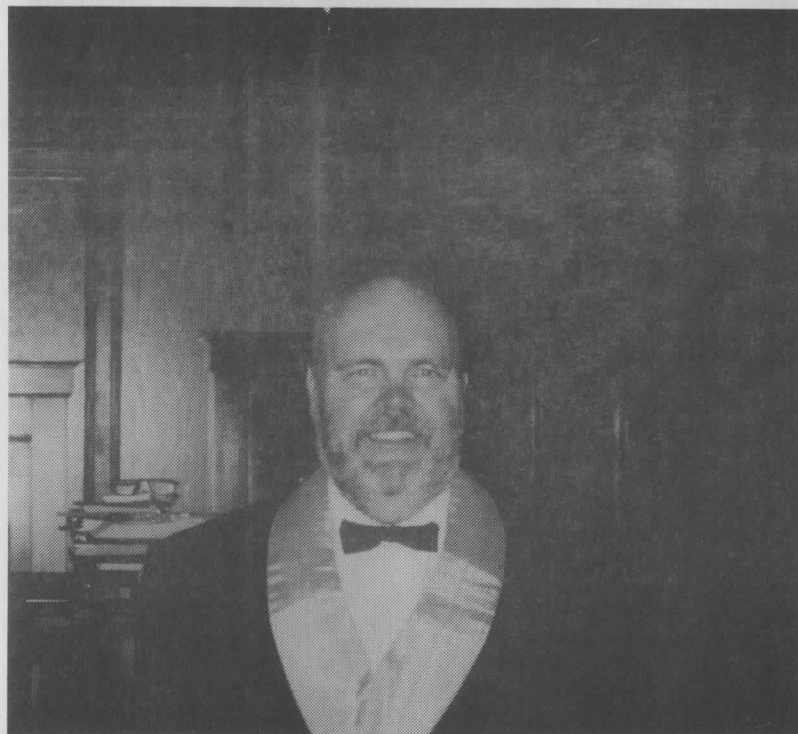
DINNER 5:00 P.M. at Days Inn



BROTHER JAMES L. ERNETTE
Right Worshipful Grand Master



BROTHER RICHARD E. LAWHEAD
District Deputy Grand Master



BROTHER PRESTON L. SANDERSON
Worshipful Master



Crawford Lodge No. 234 - 1998 Officers

Front Row - Left to Right

Secretary - Jeffrey K. Meader, P.M.

Senior Warden - Paul W. Mushrush

Worshipful Master - Preston L. Sanderson

Junior Warden - Lyle A. Smith

Senior Master of Ceremonies - Mifflin E. Shongo

Back Row - Left to Right

Junior Master of Ceremonies - Randy G. Mead

Junior Deacon - Gerald L. Houck

Chaplain - Paul L. Stafford

Senior Deacon - Jack E. Flough

Pursuivant - Richard C. Lynn

Missing: Treasurer - Richard G. O'Brien

Tyler - Shannon L. Wampler

WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S MESSAGE

On this, the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Crawford Lodge No. 234, let us review and reflect with our members and Masonic brethren, the accomplishments during the long existence of our Lodge.

This period of time should also remind us that it has been the work of many members and brethren working in harmony for the best interests of the fraternity, serving their Lodge as officers in many capacities and committees. We are also proud of the fact that some members have also served as Pennsylvania Grand Lodge Officers.

Many of these brethren have laid down the tools of the craft, and have entered the Celestial Lodge above, leaving a record of their work here as a definite part of the spirit of the Lodge. We honor their memory and praise their work, it behooves us to follow their example and not be satisfied to pass on to posterity our heritage unimpaired, but rather to enrich it by our endeavors in the future.

Our One Hundred and Fifty years of Freemasonry in Meadville has added to the moral and spiritual standards and values of the community as a guiding light, not only to members but also to residents with which Masonic members were associated in their every day lives.

Our Lodge history embraces the names of many members who have laid the foundation of several social, civic and political orders in our community and the State, as well as many religious, educational and industrial structures supported by the fraternity.

To obtain the greatest possible achievement for his Lodge, every member should attend the meetings and participate in working of the Lodge. He will thus assist and help to maintain the history and progress which our former leaders and members so proudly achieved by their diligent support.

It is the duty of the present members of Crawford Lodge No. 234, and it is a challenge to them, to continue the proud tradition and progress of the Lodge during the last One Hundred and Fifty Years. May the present and future members maintain these achievements.

PRESTON L. SANDERSON
Worshipful Master

FORWARD

In writing about the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Crawford Lodge No. 234, the Historical Committee deems it necessary to again refer to the founding of Freemasonry in the community of Meadville and the many interesting events and incidents occurring here which were closely connected to Freemasonry.

Some of the monuments of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania are also mentioned, namely, The Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown, The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, and the Masonic Library in Philadelphia.

The information concerning Western Star Lodge No. 146 and the early years of Crawford Lodge No. 234 came of course from the record books of that long ago period, but much of the information of the later years was received from our members who recalled many interesting events and items that transpired during their Masonic years.

The Committee in writing the history of Freemasonry as founded in Meadville has not attempted to follow any set pattern of composing this history, but has written as noted and presented by each member, as you will observe occasionally, a brother whose work has been noteworthy will be mentioned, again an interesting event will be noted. How well the Historical Committee has succeeded in their work must be decided by the members of the Lodge to whom this HISTORY OF LODGE NO. 234, F. & A. M., in the jurisdiction of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, is now fraternally submitted.

The cover for this Anniversary Booklet is a replica of the 1907 Lodge notice. This is the oldest known to exist. Your committee was so impressed with this cover, future plans are to have this as a replacement for our present notices.

The Historical Committee

FOUNDING OF FREEMASONRY IN MEADVILLE

The history of Freemasonry in Meadville had its beginning in 1816 with the formation of a Blue Lodge in this community. A group of Masons living in and near Meadville petitioned the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a warrant to hold a Lodge in Meadville. On August 5, 1816 a warrant was granted to form what was then known as Western Star Lodge No. 146.

The following year on September 3, 1817 the Lodge was duly constituted by the action of Right Worshipful Grand Master Walter Kerr, who deputized Giles Sanford, Past Master of an Erie Lodge to act as Worshipful Master in forming the new lodge. This authorization was further delegated to Past Master Ralph Martin and with the aid of the following Masonic brethren - - Jacob Hull, Lancelot Johnson, Seth Perkins, Josiah Brush, John D. Morrison, Loren L. Fuller, Samuel Scott, Oliver Johnson, James McNamara, and David Logan - - the Western Star Lodge was constituted and Robert L. Potter was installed as its first Master.

Some idea of the magnitude of this undertaking may be gained when we consider a few of the conditions that existed around Meadville in those days.

History informs us that in 1800 the village consisted in great part of log dwellings scattered on Dock Street (now Mead Avenue), Water, Chestnut, Center and Walnut Streets, and that only a few frame buildings had been built. The population of the county at that time was 2,346 including that of the town which was 166. Only five years before this time, two residents of the county had been murdered by Indians at a point just six miles south of Meadville and one mile west of French Creek. In spite of the hardships and privations of the pioneers, Meadville became one of the first cultural centers west of the Alleghenies and many of the names identified with the development of public interests in the town and county were likewise found active in the first Masonic Lodge constituted here.

Western Star Lodge No. 146 lived and flourished until the Morgan and anti-Masonic excitement of 1827-28 when feeling became so intense, due to propaganda against the Masonic fraternity, that the Lodge ceased its labors and vacated its warrant, February 6, 1837.

There followed a period of twenty years, from 1828 to 1848, in which Freemasonry slumbered in Crawford County.

The first lodge of Masons, although short-lived, had made its mark in the community; and the "Crawford Messenger," the first local newspaper, gave an account of the laying of a cornerstone for one of the buildings at Allegheny College on July 5, 1920 and cites the prominent part taken by local members of the Masonic fraternity. It stated that Stephen Barlow, Esquire, Worshipful Master of Western Star Lodge, and David Molthrop, Most Excellent High Priest of Western Star Chapter, ably assisted Timothy Alden, first president of Allegheny College, in this undertaking. At the ceremony, President Alden was appointed Worshipful Master of Western Star pro-tem and invested accordingly, whereupon he proceeded, with the assistance of officers and brethren of both fraternities, to lay the cornerstone of Bently Hall, the first public building of Allegheny College. Timothy Alden then resigned his temporary appointment, returned his investments to Stephen Barlow, ascended the cornerstone and delivered an appropriate address on the occasion.

It is not surprising that after a twenty year recess, during which there was little or no Masonic activity in this community, that the loyal brethren should desire to re-establish the Masonic Lodge.

In February of 1848 an appeal was made to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania by Charles F. Weaver, Royal Arch Mason of Belmont Lodge No. 16 of Ohio, at the request of John Dick, former Worshipful Master of Western Star Lodge, and Brothers Charles M. Yates, Robert Adrain, Samuel Adrain, George Hurst, W. M. Kerr, and John McNamara, all former members of Western Star Lodge, that the warrant be restored so the Lodge might resume its labors. After some deliberation the Grand Lodge rejected this petition for reasons unknown at this time. However, on September 4, 1848, a warrant was granted to Ami Bond, Worshipful Master; Alexander Johnson, Senior Warden; and Charles M. Yates, Junior Warden; for a new lodge to be located in, or within five miles of Meadville, and to be known as Crawford Lodge No. 234.

It is interesting to note that of the warrant members of the new lodge, Charles M. Yates, Robert Adrain, George Hurst, Alexander Johnson, John Collom, William Kerr, Launcelot Johnson, and Jonathan Whitney were former members of Western Star Lodge. These men comprised about two-thirds of the warrant members of the new lodge. On October 10, 1848 the

Grand Lodge addressed a communication to one Charles E. Weaver, a Royal Arch Mason, authorizing him to call to his assistance a sufficient number of Past Masters and Master Masons to assist him in constituting Crawford Lodge No. 234.

On November 14, 1848 the members of the new lodge assembled in the Odd Fellows Hall (later known as the St. Cloud Hotel), on the third floor of the Otterstate Block, situated on the north-west corner of Water and Chestnut Streets, and duly constituted the Lodge.

The Records of this meeting placed the following officers in charge, viz; Charles E. Weaver, Worshipful Master; Alexander Johnson, Senior Warden; Charles M. Yates, Junior Warden; William Kerr, Secretary; George Hurst, Treasurer; Robert Adrain, Senior Deacon; and James Williamson, Tyler. It is noted that these officers were acting in a pro-tem capacity and no mention was made of their formal election. The Records, however, did carry the full text of a letter addressed to Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Peter Fritz stating that these duties had been fulfilled, thus making the record authentic.

The first Lodge meeting was opened at six o'clock P.M., but there being no business to be attended to, Lodge closed in the first degree and opened in the third degree, as was the custom when receiving petitions for membership. Petitions were presented from Charles A. Derickson, George K. Bain, and David Lockert of Meadville, and from John S. Carey and J. H. Shumon of Venango County, Franklin, Pa.

After a committee had been appointed to investigate the Petitioners, the Worshipful Master appointed Ami Bond, Charles M. Yates, and William Kerr on a By-Laws committee. Apparently this committee had previously been working on this matter and presented their findings on printed form which was unanimously adopted by the members present. Also at this time an election of officers was formally held. No further business appeared, so the third degree Lodge was closed and a first degree Lodge was opened. As no additional business occurred, the Lodge closed at 10 P.M. The first stated meeting of the Lodge was held on December 6, 1848.

The history of Freemasonry in Crawford County has been synonymous with the history of Meadville, in that both started from the humblest beginnings, in a new country yet unsettled, with difficult modes of travel and a sparse population. Many difficulties faced the pioneers but with each problem, men rose

equal to the tasks before them and soon churches, schools, roads, and Courts of Law were established. As the city progressed, so did Freemasonry, and many a prominent citizen could be identified with a Masonic order. Many traditions were established and the Lodge prospered due to the loyalty of the Brethren. The Lodge was held with high regard in the community and general interest attended all Masonic functions.

* * * * *

CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 234, F. & A. M.

MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

CONSTITUTED NOVEMBER 15, A.D. 1848, A.L. 5848

WARRANT MEMBERS

Ami Bond	Robert Adrain
Alexander Johnson	Silas Taylor
Charles M. Yates	James Williamson
Charles E. Weaver	Launcelot Johnson
William Kerr	John Collum
George Hurst	David L. Wilson

Jonathan Whitney

The earliest Record Book of Crawford Lodge No. 234 - - dated November, 1848 - - has written on its first pages the Warrant of Constitution, the dispensation granted to Brother Charles E. Weaver to open and constitute this lodge, and a statement signed by Brother Charles E. Weaver that on the fourteenth day of November, 1848, he had fulfilled those duties.

Next we find a copy of the By-Laws of the Lodge, some of which are very enlightening and interesting and when viewed in the light of present day Freemasonry may seem somewhat amusing.

We note that the stated meeting was to be held on the Wednesday of, or preceding each full moon, and that in the absence of the officers, these meetings could be opened by the oldest Mason present. Under duties of officers, we find that the Worshipful Master, provided that there was no Degree work to be done, was to fill in the time by lecturing or reading to the Lodge some book or manuscript calculated to afford the brethren

Masonic instruction. If he chose, the Master could have this done by some member present. At this time, a person desiring to petition the Lodge for membership was required to place a deposit of seven dollars with his petition, which, if he were accepted, entitled him to receive the Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree. The fees, for being passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft Mason and for being raised to the Degree of Master Mason, were for each degree five dollars. The candidate had to be balloted on before being advanced to the next degree. Every Brother, before being advanced from one degree to another, had to pass an examination in the body of the open Lodge or his proficiency in the work had to be vouched for by another Brother. The dues were set at 50 cents per quarter, payment to be made during the stated meetings of January, April, July or October of each year. Any member in arrears twelve months in his dues was not entitled to vote upon anything whatever. Any visitor, residing within the jurisdiction of this Lodge, who had visited this Lodge at least once before, was required to pay twenty-five cents each time of his subsequent attendance. A standing committee was established for extending charitable relief to transient Brethren in distress. The committee was limited to granting five dollars to any one applicant.

The first stated meeting of the Lodge, which was held in the Odd Fellows Hall on December 6, 1848, was attended by eleven Masons. Five names were voted on favorably for membership and one petition for initiation was presented. As this was the night for the election of officers, the members present elected Brother Charles E. Weaver, Worshipful Master; A. H. Johnson, Senior Warden; and Charles M. Yates, Junior Warden. On the 27th of December the officers were duly installed for the coming Masonic Year. Nineteen members attended the stated meeting held January 3, 1849. It was during this meeting that a resolution was offered and passed that any clergymen applying for membership would be admitted for one half of the amount of the usual initiation fee. The first extra meeting of the Lodge was held the 24th of January, 1849, for the purpose of conferring Fellowcraft and Master Mason's Degrees on a Brother by dispensation. A Lodge of Past Masters was opened on October 2, 1849, and a dispensation was read from the District Deputy Grand Master empowering the Lodge to pass to the chair a member of Crawford Lodge No. 234.

In the latter part of the year 1849, Crawford Lodge No. 234 moved into its new home, a room above the Isaac Kahn store, and at the October meeting of that year, the Lodge voted to pay an annual rent of fifty dollars for the use of the rooms. At the December 18, 1850 meeting, the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge

of Pennsylvania was petitioned to form a new district to comprise Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Warren Counties. A ceremonial celebration was held in honor of Saint John the Evangelist on December 27, 1850.

It was also on this date, December 27, 1850, that Crawford Lodge No. 234 had the honor of having one of its members, Brother George K. Bain, appointed District Deputy Grand Master of Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Warren Counties.

One notes that in those long ago days there did not seem to be any set degree in which Lodge was opened, as occasionally Lodges were opened in the Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree and business conducted in that degree.

Apparently the Lodge had presented its members with Bibles as a bill was presented and ordered paid for one hundred Holy Bibles. It was very evident that the committee on charity really functioned in those days, as the Records frequently mentioned the charitable acts of the Lodge. At one meeting, a Brother asked for and was granted a loan of twenty-five dollars. Also many times our Records disclose that widows and children of deceased Brethren were receiving regularly financial assistance from Crawford Lodge No. 234. It was the custom of the Worshipful Master in those days to submit a roster of the Officers and Members who were to act as night attendants to the seriously sick and disabled Brethren. A list of the ailing was supplied to the members who were assigned a specific time in which he was to be in charge of the sick relief.

It was noted that in 1855, the Secretary's salary was increased to \$20.00 per annum. At the April meeting in 1855, a brother from the country stated that the members living in the country desired that the regular meeting be held in the light of the moon, and a motion was passed to that effect.

To illustrate the progressiveness of the Lodge in the by-gone years, gas lights were installed in the Lodge rooms in 1856. This was one of the first buildings in Meadville to have this convenience.

Samuel B. Dick, who was later known to become Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, was entered, passed and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason by special dispensation on March 28, 1857.

The Lodge voted to move to the third floor of the Betts Block Building May 27, 1857, and on July 15th of that year the

Lodge Room was dedicated to Masonic purposes in the usual manner by District Deputy Grand Master Ami Bond, who officiated at the ceremony.

October 18, 1857, the Lodge resolved to buy and use only hickory wood for fuel and a motion was passed to procure cast iron heating stoves for the use of the Lodge.

A resolution was offered at one of the meetings in 1859 that the Lodge be opened and business be conducted only in the Master Masons or Third Degree. It was the custom at this time to observe both Saint John the Baptist's Day and Saint John the Evangelist's Day, in the months of June and December of each year.

In the month of March 1859, a petition was filed by five members of the Lodge, to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of constituting a new Lodge at Saegertown, Pa., to be known as Saint Nicholas Lodge. Although these Brethren asked for and received their final withdrawal cards to form the Lodge, apparently Grand Lodge did not favor the constituting of a Lodge so near in distance to Meadville and the petition was refused.

In 1859, a petitioner for membership, who had received an unfavorable ballot, was declared eligible for membership by District Deputy Grand Master Ami Bond, who quoted this statement from the R. W. Grand Secretary, "Unanimity in Indictment, Majority in Advancement." An appeal was made from this decision, on the basis that the petitioner had defrauded a member of the Lodge and a committee was appointed to investigate the report, but when the charges proved unfounded the petitioner was accepted as a member of the Lodge. In the year 1860, the Lodge was called upon to collect a debt which one Brother owed to another in the amount of \$15.55. After some discussion of the matter by the Lodge, it was decided to notify the member owing the debt to pay it in full before the next stated meeting. Additional information, however, later discloses that the debtor was finally allowed three months to pay the account. The stated meetings at this time were held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, during the Winter months at 6 P.M., and in the Summer months at 7 P.M. It is noted that in 1863 the Secretary was instructed to purchase 50 additional Bibles.

A resolution was offered in 1864 that the Senior Deacon conduct the balloting for membership. He would pass to each member one white ball and one black ball, and after the members had voted, the Senior Deacon would gather the unused balls from the members.

During the December 1864 meeting, a resolution was offered and later passed that District Deputy Grand Master Brother Samuel B. Dick act as a proxy representative for this Lodge in the Grand Lodge. He was instructed to advocate in Grand Lodge that a fee of not less than thirty dollars be charged all petitioners for membership throughout the jurisdiction of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

As the construction of a new county courthouse was planned in 1868, Crawford Lodge No. 234 asked the Grand Lodge for permission to act as a Lodge in laying the cornerstone and publicly performing duties incidental to the occasion. Permission was received from the Grand Lodge and committees on arrangements, music and speaking were appointed. On May 27th, 1868 the cornerstone was laid and Brother H. C. Johnson of this Lodge delivered an appropriate address. It is noted from the Records Book that a bill was presented for sprinkling the dirt streets adjacent to the site of the laying of the cornerstone.

In reviewing the books of the Records of Lodge No. 234 in the years 1868 through 1890, we find the following items of interest.

The payment of dues to the Grand Lodge in the year 1869 amounted to \$179.00; while there is not mention of the amount of dues per member, we aim to show the steady growth of the Lodge in mention of this item at some later date.

In the year 1870, the stated meeting of the Lodge was changed. An amendment was adopted to read as follows: "The stated meeting of this Lodge shall be held on the first Thursday of each month." There have been no changes in the stated meeting since that date.

In the following year 1871, the Lodge changed its meeting place and moved to the corner of Water and Dock Streets, which is now Mead Avenue.

In February 1876, the By-Laws of this district were amended to change the fee for initiation and membership to be as follows: Initiation \$30.00, each degree \$10.00, annual dues \$3.00.

In this period covering the years of 1868 to 1880, the Lodge was honored by having two of its members appointed as District Deputy Grand Masters, namely, Brothers Pearson Church and Francis H. Foster who were Members and Past Masters of this Lodge.

The Lodge was also honored by being hosts to the officers of the Grand Lodge in a school of instruction about the year 1882 with Brother Samuel B. Dick as Grand Master.

The Lodge was often honored by the presence of visitors from other jurisdictions and it is with interest we note the visit of Brother Robert Johnson, Star Lodge No. 219, Glasgow, Scotland, and Brother George Findley, Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 1, Shanghai, Empire of China.

During October 1894, a Masonic Board of Relief was formed with the three other Masonic Bodies of the City.

In the year 1896, the Right Worshipful Grand Master issued a communication stating that no more Lodge notices should be sent on Postal Cards or published in newspapers, but that all notices must be sent in sealed envelopes.

On November 15, 1898, the brethren assembled to a complimentary dinner given by the Lodge in commemoration of the semi-centennial. A brief historical sketch of Lodge No. 234 was presented by W. M. Arthur L. Bates, with appropriate addresses by Samuel B. Dick, P.G.M., and Ken C. Hayes, Grand Chaplain. The meeting ended with the time honored custom of uniting in the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

The petition of R. Bruce Gamble was approved March 2, 1899. After Brother Gamble became a Master Mason he was very active in Masonic circles in the following years. He was a well known physician and surgeon in the Meadville community, and also served with honor as a commissioned officer in the United States Armed Services during the First World War.

On October 2, 1902 in compliance with a suggestion from the R. W. Grand Master, Chairman of committee in charge of the Sesqui-centennial Anniversary of the initiation of George Washington as a Freemason, Brother Alvah Johnson, P.M., was selected as the representative of this Lodge for the occasion, and on November 5 a special joint meeting of Lodges 234 and 408 was held to celebrate this anniversary.

A communication was received on April 2, 1903, from the Grand Secretary on the subject of establishing homes in central and western Pennsylvania, for the care of our indigent Brethren, their aged wives, and their orphan children. The Records show that our Lodge heartily approved the proposed establishment of Masonic homes as outlined in the communication.

An edict issued on August 27, 1903, by R. W. Grand Master Edgar A. Tennis read as follows: "The letter 'G' forms no part of our ceremony, is not a proper Lodge decoration and must not appear on Lodge notices."

A resolution was introduced on February 3, 1910 by Brother C. M. Allen and seconded by M. Torbett Forker, Sr., and Dudley S. Cutler to the effect that the Lodge be moved from its present rooms to the third floor of the Peter Miller Block at 939 Water Street, and at a Special meeting on February 10, with the approval of the District Deputy Grand Master A. W. McCoy, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

At the stated meeting of the Lodge on May 5, 1910, it was decided to increase the membership fees from \$50.00 to \$75.00. Time of meetings was likewise changed from 7:00 to 7:30 P.M.

A preamble and resolution was considered for acquiring a larger holding of stock in the Meadville Masonic Building Association at the stated meeting on June 2, 1910.

With the new building completed and ready for occupancy, the Brothers were about ready to take over the new Lodge room and at the regular meeting on June 4, 1914 a resolution was introduced by Albert S. Lutton, M. T. Forker, and E. H. Shartle which resolved that the place of meeting of this Lodge be removed to the fourth floor of the new building, and on July 28 a Special Meeting was held at which this resolution was formally adopted, and on September 3, 1914, the first meeting was held in the new Lodge rooms of the present building.

On June 3, 1915, it became necessary to amend the By-Laws and the Lodge entertained a motion introduced by Brothers Howard A. Boyer and Benjamin F. Miller, Jr. to the effect that the dues of each member be increased from four to six dollars per year.

A resolution was received on December 16, 1916 from the Grand Lodge stating that on and after December 27th, 1916 all new petitioners for initiation and membership both in this and other jurisdictions would be required to pay the sum of \$20.00 in addition to regular fees, for the preservation, maintenance, and perpetuity of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pa. These sums are to be set aside from the general revenues for Masonic Home purposes only.

A special joint meeting of Lodges 234 and 408 was held for the purpose of celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the issuing of

the Charter to Western Star Lodge No. 146 in 1816, the establishment of Freemasonry in Crawford County and a Grand Visitation by the Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Louis A. Watres, at which 94 members and 17 visitors were present on December 19, 1916.

Membership in the Lodge remained the same as the previous year, at 174. Records show that during 1916, eight new members were initiated and one restored to membership bringing the total to 183, but during the year there were three resignations, two deceased, and four suspensions which reduced the total to 174.

On November 1, 1917, a voluntary contribution of \$2.00 was received from each and every member to establish a fund to be known as "The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania War Relief Fund" to be used for the relief of the members of this jurisdiction in active war service, their wives, widows, orphans and such others as may be in need under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the committee.

At the June 8, 1917 meeting, a dispensation was granted from District Deputy Grand Master Adrian W. McCoy, authorizing this Lodge to raise William Henry Crawford, who was then President of Allegheny College and residing in Meadville. On motion, the Lodge agreed to act under the authority as aforesaid.

A communication was received from the Right Worshipful Grand Master on May 2, 1918, stating that no Lodge receive a petition from anyone born in a country with which the United States is at war unless his petition is accompanied by sufficient proof of naturalization as a citizen of the United States.

A dispensation to "Pass to the Chair" was to be granted on July 18, 1918 by the District Deputy Grand Master upon the petition of a Master Mason of six months standing when recommended by the Master and Wardens of the Lodge and accompanied by the fee, without any additional requirements or restriction.

A meeting of the Lodge was called on November 14, 1918 to observe the organization and constitution of the Lodge on its 70th anniversary. No elaborate observance was attempted however, due to an epidemic of influenza which had been sweeping the country and which was especially severe in Pennsylvania. All public meetings were forbidden by the authorities, and Lodges met only to transact necessary business.

On December 5, 1918, R. E. Lee was elected to serve as Junior Warden of the Lodge, but refused the station and a further election was authorized by Grand Master James B. Krause, and on January 9, 1919, Josiah M. Mook was elected to fill the station.

The Lodge announced on April 3, 1919 that the dues of all its members in United States Service would be remitted to December 27, 1918.

A grant of one hundred dollars was made on January 15, 1920 to the George Washington National Memorial Fund.

Memberships of the Lodge, as indicated by the Records of February 5, 1920, shows a steady increase with 24 initiations during the preceding year, bringing the total to 201.

The November 4, 1920 meeting saw a change in fees for initiation and membership from \$70.00 to \$100.00 which was approved by the Lodge.

The balance of 1920 and most of 1921 were quite uneventful until September of that year when the Right Worshipful Grand Master Brother John S. Sell issued an edict against the Order of Eastern Star, White Shrine of Jerusalem, and Amaranths, the object of which was solely for the welfare and best interests of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. This edict points out the duty of each Member to his own Fraternity and requests said Members to drop their affiliation with this or any other organization inimical to Freemasonry. It likewise states that we have no desire to interfere in any way with such organizations unless by their actions they endanger the long established procedures and management of our Fraternal affairs. The Grand Lodge therefore concludes that any organization having Masonic affiliation as a prerequisite to membership, shall be considered subversive to the principles and Landmarks of Freemasonry and henceforth it shall be unlawful for any Freemason to become a member of such an organization under this jurisdiction.

On March 2, 1922 Past Master Edward H. Shartle presented a beautiful American Flag to the Lodge. Brother Shartle, P.M. served as Secretary of Crawford Lodge No. 234 in 1910.

The membership of the Lodge again shows an increase over the previous period with eighteen initiations and two restorations to membership during 1922, bringing the total to 230.

The following three years were uneventful except for the business of the Lodge which transpired as usual and during which more new members were initiated.

On August 4, 1925, more than 200 of the Masonic Brethren attended the laying of the cornerstone of the new library, where the ceremony was performed according to Masonic usages and customs with Brothers of the two local Lodges acting as officers of the Grand Lodge.

A notation in the Records of January 6, 1927, informs us that Lodge No. 234 has purchased the stocks held by its Members in the Masonic Building Association.

On February 3, 1927, the By-Laws of the Lodge were revised and reprinted, following corrections, alterations and amendments that had been made from time to time.

The ceremony of "Passing to the Chair," which has been mentioned under the date of October 1927, has been revised to eliminate the fee which was required with this dispensation, due to the fact that it proved detrimental to the membership of the Chapter and Knights Templar bodies who at that time required a petitioner to have been a Past Master. This edict was directed by J. Willison Smith, Right Worshipful Grand Master in Pennsylvania and became effective on and after July 1, 1929.

In December of this year, the Lodge retired 53 notes held by the Trustees and gave them instructions to destroy them.

January 2, 1930, indicates a further increase in the ranks of membership with a total of 254, although during 1929 and 1930 the Lodge lost 9 members by death.

On October 19, 1931, the bi-centenary observance of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania was held with 145 members and visitors present for the occasion.

Also, at this meeting, Brother C. C. Freeland of Covenant Lodge No. 433 of Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, presented to Crawford Lodge No. 234 the apron and collar worn by deceased Past Master Brother Robert Adrian, who was one of the petitioners for the Warrant of Lodge No. 234 which was granted November 14, 1848. Brother John Graham, Worshipful Master, received these much cherished relics.

On April 7, 1932, a testimonial letter was sent to Past District Grand Master Adrian W. McCoy thanking him for his services to Freemasonry for the preceding twenty-nine years.

The following several years were quiet ones for the Lodge but with slight increase in membership.

Beginning in 1942, with many of our Brethren going into the various United States Armed Services and a definite increase in the number of Members, Crawford Lodge No. 234 is again illustrating those principles for which it was founded - - the union of good men and true.

On October 4th, 1944, Crawford Lodge No. 234 had the pleasure of presenting a fifty year membership jewel to Brother Otto A. Stoltz, who was Worshipful Master of this Lodge in 1897. A similar presentation was made to Brother Willie John Greer on December 12th, 1946.

On September 18, 1948, the observance of Crawford Lodge No. 234 100th Anniversary was held. The Lodge was honored by having an informal visit by the Right Worshipful Grand Master George H. Deike and Grand Lodge Officers as well as several visiting District Deputy Grand Masters and Officers from the other Lodges in this District, with ninety-seven members present and fifty-eight visitors.

At the March 1, 1950 meeting, a communication was received from Grand Lodge that candidates and the members of Lodges should receive proper instructions in the Principles and the Teachings of Freemasonry and four booklets titled "On The Threshold," "The Entered Apprentice," "The Fellow Craft" and "The Master Mason," will be presented to all new candidates.

At the September 4, 1950 stated meeting, Right Worshipful Grand Master William E. Yeager and other Grand Lodge Officers visited Crawford Lodge No. 234. His principle message was trying to encourage members to visit other Lodges and attend Lodge more often.

At the May 7, 1957 stated meeting, a communication was received from Grand Lodge on the new series of booklets to be used by the committees on Masonic Culture.

At the October 2, 1958 stated meeting, an informal visitation was made by Right Worshipful Grand Master Sanford M. Chilcote and other Grand Lodge Officers on Past Master's Night with ninety-nine members present and ninety-four visitors.

On May 5, 1960, Crawford Lodge No. 234 received the Grand Masters Award Certificate for their \$500.00 dollar gift to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

In 1960, twelve (12) members resigned to be warrant members of Cochranton Lodge No. 790. Crawford Lodge No. 234 made a donation of \$300.00 to the newly constituted Cochranton Lodge.

At the September 6, 1962 stated meeting, it was on motion resolved that Crawford Lodge No. 234 approved the application for admission of Past Master Charles D. Tucker's son to the Patton Masonic School for Boys. On February 11, 1971, he became a member of Crawford Lodge No. 234.

On October 12, 1963, Crawford Lodge No. 234 held an extra meeting at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pa., with Robert W. Waid having conferred upon him the Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree. Twenty-five members were present with twenty visitors.

At the October 1, 1970 stated meeting, a letter was read from District Deputy Grand Master John J. Allio, asking for help in finding a meeting place for the ladies Masonic organizations.

At the May 6, 1971 stated meeting, the Board of Directors of the Masonic Building Association was authorized to renovate a portion of the 3rd floor for this purpose.

As of December 27, 1948, the membership was 300. Twenty-five years later on December 27, 1972, our membership gained 231 with a total membership of 531.

PROGRESS AND GROWTH OF CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 234, F. & A. M. IN ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS

From a humble beginning in a sparsely settled community, with but thirteen warrant members, Crawford Lodge No. 234 has shown a constant and steady growth most of its first one hundred and fifty years.

The first report, as of Saint John's Day, 1848, discloses a membership of thirty-seven members. This number has consistently increased during the following years, although a slight decline is noted in the year 1868 when some of the members withdrew from Crawford Lodge No. 234 to form Lodge No. 408 and others withdrew because of financial situations following the Civil War.

For a number of years following these events there was but a small increase in the membership of the Lodge, but before the turn of the century there was a marked increase in membership which continued until after the First World War, when again there was a decline in the membership.

From the years 1921 to 1939, Crawford Lodge No. 234, like all other lodges, felt the effects of low income periods and the financial depression, and there were few members added to its roster. However, beginning in the year 1940 and continuing up to 1975, Crawford Lodge has enjoyed the greatest growth in membership in its history.

That the Lodge was originally well founded in the principles of true Masonic teachings is evidenced by the progress of many of its members to the higher Masonic Bodies: that of Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Pennsylvania has been held by one of our members and, in many cases, our members have been appointed to act as District Deputy Grand Masters of this Masonic jurisdiction.

Crawford Lodge No. 234 has enjoyed its labors for one hundred and fifty years and is approaching it with thanksgiving and appreciation, asking God to bless what good we have accomplished and to forgive what we have done amiss, and hope that at the end of another quarter century the words CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 234 in particular and Freemasonry in general may still be held in the high esteem that it is today.

**GRAND OFFICERS
of the
GRAND LODGE OF F. & A. M.
OF PENNSYLVANIA
1998 5998**

James L. Ernette	R. W. Grand Master
Robert L. Dlugé	R. W. Deputy Grand Master
Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr.	R. W. Senior Grand Warden
William Slater, II	R. W. Junior Grand Warden
Marvin G. Speicher	R. W. Grand Treasurer
Thomas W. Jackson	R. W. Grand Secretary

**Right Worshipful Past Grand Master of the
Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania**

BROTHER SAMUEL B. DICK

**Received his Masonic Degrees by Dispensation
on March 28, 1857 in Crawford Lodge No. 234**

Crawford Lodge No. 234 has been honored by having the following Members appointed to act as District Deputy Grand Masters:

George K. Bain	1850-1853
Ami Bond	1854-1862
Samuel B. Dick	1863-1866
Pearson W. Church	1867-1876
Francis H. Foster	1878-1880
Warren Needham	1880-1881
Myron Park Davis	1884-1887
Myron Park Davis	1889-1900
Adrian W. McCoy	1901-1930
Clifford W. Skinner	1931-1936
Ben R. Beisel	1937-1946

District Deputy Grand Masters have been appointed from Crawford Lodge No. 234 for 95 of its first 150 years.

**MEMBERS TO RECEIVE
GRAND LODGE 50 YEAR MASONIC SERVICE EMBLEM
AT THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

William A. Agnew	Initiated - February 5, 1948
Frank H. Brawn	Initiated - February 19, 1948
Lawrence L. Confer	Initiated - June 3, 1948
Paul E. Deater, Sr.	Initiated - April 8, 1948
George E. Mosier	Initiated - February 19, 1948

PAST MASTERS OF CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 234

*Ami Bond	1848	*David C. Dunn	1884
*Charles E. Weaver	1849	*Win S. Rose	1885
*George K. Bain	1850	*Archibald Haggat	1886
*Robert Adrain	1851	*William R. McCoy	1887
*Robert Adrain	1852	*William R. McCoy	1888
*Richard Johnson	1853	*James M. Maxwell	1889
*Frederick W. Kirby	1854	*James M. Maxwell	1890
*Lewis L. Lord	1855	*Edmund L. Irvin	1891
*Richard Johnson	1856	*Isaac Mondereau	1892
*Richard Johnson	1857	*Charles Stolz	1893
*Joseph H. Lenhart	1858	*Ken C. Hays	1894
*George L. Smull	1859	*George W. Houser	1895
**Samuel B. Dick, PGM	1860	*Alvah Johnston	1896
*John W. Farrelly	1861	*Otto A. Stolz	1897
*Joseph H. Lenhart	1862	*Arthur L. Bates	1898
**J. Moore Dick	1863	*Robert H. Sherman	1899
**J. Moore Dick	1864	*Adrian W. McCoy	1900
**Pearson Church	1865	*Frank A. Wahl	1901
*William C. Hay	1866	*August J. Gilles	1902
*Francis H. Foster	1867	*James C. Beveridge	1903
*B. Frank Porter	1868	*Francis M. Graff	1904
*Alexander Fleisher	1869	*Loren J. Curtis	1905
*Andrew J. Walp	1870	*Albert S. Lutton	1906
*J. Hays Culbertson	1871	*Benjamin B. Pickett, Jr.	1907
**James P. Colter Lodge #521		*Harry E. Fable	1908
*Ethelbert O. David	1872	*Edward H. Shartle	1909
*Myron Park Davis	1873	*James S. Charlton	1910
*Ralph D. Smith	1874	*Clair H. Allen	1911
**Edward W. Tanner	1875	*M. Torbett Forker, Sr.	1912
*Warren Needham	1876	*Howard A. Boyer	1913
*Warren Needham	1877	*Thomas E. Rossiter	1914
*Henry H. Thompson	1878	*Archie F. Shiel	1915
*Warren Needham	1879	*Robert D. Gaskill	1916
*J. Newton McCloskey	1880	*Alfred E. Teifer	1917
*William J. Work	1881	*Benjamin F. Miller, Jr.	1918
*DeWitt C. McCoy	1882	*Rodney C. Hazen	1919
*Casper W. Tyler	1883	*Harry T. Charles	1920

*Josiah M. Mook	1921	*William E. Wilkes	1960
*Clarence F. Ross	1922	*Charles R. Alsdorf	1961
*Clifford W. Skinner	1923	Edwin J. Randall	1962
*Arthur W. Collom	1924	William B. Smith, III	1963
*Irving A. Hoy	1925	Arthur L. Dale	1964
*Roy H. Van Ness	1925	*Carl P. Stephens	1965
*William B. Hishman	1926	*Alfred H. Dreisbach	1966
*Earl D. Hall	1927	*Robert L. Smock	1967
*Donald C. Thompson	1928	*Robert L. Smock	1968
*John H. Pendleton	1929	Samuel R. Wilson	1969
*Paul M. Ralston	1930	Daniel E. Shilling	1970
*John C. Graham	1931	Kenneth T. Kuntz	1971
*Noble H. Harned	1932	James A. Foust	1972
*W. Preston Hall	1933	Donald L. Roberts	1973
*Burton J. Fisher	1934	Phillip M. Adzma	1974
*John P. Kemnitzer	1935	Theodore E. Johnston	1975
*Ben R. Beisel	1936	Donald R. Houck	1976
*Lutellus Ortmann	1937	John F. Wilson	1977
*William Pierce	1938	Charlton A. Adsit, Jr.	1978
*Lorance A. Green	1939	Neill K. Overall	1979
*George Scott Dixon	1940	James R. Johnston	1980
*Henry W. Werley	1941	Richard L. Darby	1981
*David D. Sleppy	1942	Robert S. Spangler	1982
*Robert W. Myers	1943	Charlton A. Adsit, III	1983
*Francis H. Forbes	1944	Harry L. Hanstine	1984
*Edward C. Gibson	1945	James R. Chandler	1985
*Bernard H. Cox	1946	Dwayne E. Jindra	1986
*Louis P. Mazura	1947	Robert D. Baird	1987
*Harold G. Roha	1948	Michael J. Baird	1988
*Daniel E. Lamb	1949	Bernard D. Hanmore	1989
*James W. Brown	1950	Frederick E. Brown	1990
*James N. Hocke	1951	Jeffrey K. Meader	1991
*Myron A. Stafford	1952	James A. Marvin	1992
*John L. DeArment	1953	Rodger P. Nydes	1993
*Gail W. Pringle	1954	Charles E. Barry	1994
*Luther M. Templeton	1955	Russell K. McKinsey	1995
*Winter J. Stewart	1956	James R. Chandler	1996
Richard W. Clark	1957	Dwayne E. Jindra	1997
*Charles C. Naddeo	1958	Preston L. Sanderson	1998
*Charles R. Tucker	1959		

SECRETARIES OF CRAWFORD LODGE NO. 234

William Kerr	1848-1849
F. A. Wilson	1850
J. W. Bingden	1851
Joseph H. Lenhart	1852-1853
Joseph T. Chase	1854-1861
Robert Adrain	1862
Joseph H. Chase	1863
George K. Bain	1864-1865
Joseph H. Lenhart	1866
William Beatty	1867
Joseph H. Lenhart	1868-1869
A. B. Brechenridge	1880
Myron Park Davis	1881-1906
Loren J. Curtis	1907-1909
Edward H. Shartle	1910
Clyde M. Baker	1911
Frederick L. Day	1912-1914
Albert S. Lutton	1915-1918
James S. Charlton	1919-1943
Henry E. Werley	1944
John H. Pendleton	1945-1973
Norman W. McFee	1974-1980
James A. Foust	1981-1992
Jeffrey K. Meader	1993-Present

COMMITTEE FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Richard E. Lawhead, District Deputy Grand Master
Cochranon Lodge No. 790

Preston L. Sanderson, W.M.

Dwayne E. Jindra, P.M.

Bernard D. Hanmore, P.M.

Jeffrey K. Meader, P.M.

James A. Marvin, P.M.

Rodger P. Nydes, P.M.

Jack E. Flaugh

Gerald L. Houck

Randy G. Mead

Paul L. Stafford

Richard G. O'Brien

THE MASONIC BUILDING
310-312 Chestnut Street
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The present Masonic Building was erected in the years 1913-1914. As early as 1908, it was quite apparent that the members of the Masonic Orders needed a permanent meeting place with more space than they had been accustomed to in the several places which they had rented.

Many of the more active members of the two lodges, #408 and Crawford Lodge No. 234, as well as members of Solomon Chapter No. 191 and Northwestern Commandery No. 25, had long sought a suitable location for a Meadville Masonic Building.

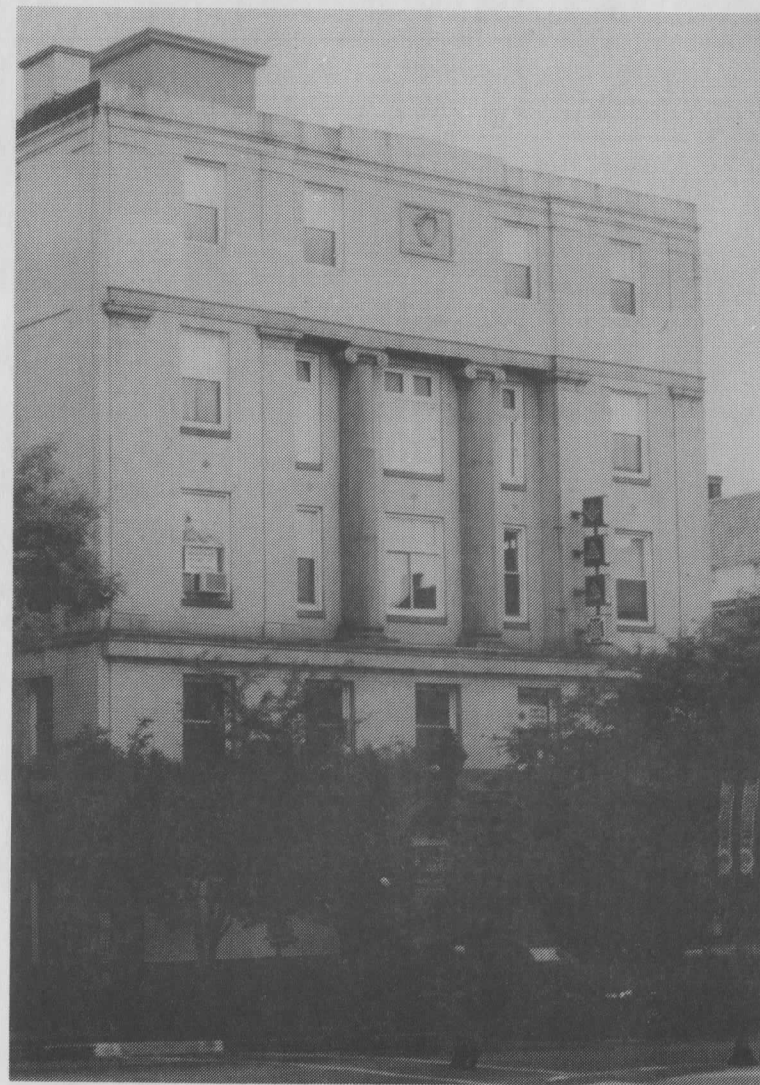
On August 1, 1910, title was secured for the property immediately east of the United States Post Office Building on Chestnut Street. The next two years were spent in planning and designing the building. Construction was started in early 1913 and the cornerstone was laid on June 14, 1913. In late 1914, the building was completed and the four Masonic Orders moved into the new building. In recent years, the interior of the building has been frequently altered and renovated so that the building itself has been much improved.

At the present time, the lodge rooms are completely redecorated and all other adjoining rooms on the fourth floor have been completely remodeled and redecorated as well as new furnishings added. The fifth floor kitchen and dining area was also remodeled in the improvement program.

In the summer of 1987, the lodge room and fifth floor underwent extensive renovations. Both floors were remodeled. central air and heating were installed.

In 1996, the building was sold and the Masonic Bodies were given five years to find a new location. The Building Association located and purchased property on Rte. 27 outside the city. Plans are now underway for a new building to be erected.

Twenty Five years has elapsed since our last Anniversary. Over the years, membership has dwindled to 405. Efforts to improve this decline was and has been put into place by the Grand Lodge. With the prospect of the new lodge becoming a reality, this trend of declining membership should end.



MASONIC HALL
310 - 312 Chestnut Street
Meadville, Pennsylvania