

Keokuk Lodge No. 106, B. P. O. E.

ELKS NOW HAVE BEAUTIFUL HOME

Popular and Prosperous Fraternal Organization Now Occupying Handsome Lodge Quarters Corner Sixth and Blondeau.

IS FINEST IN THE CITY

And Praised by Visiting Elks From All Over the Country as Being a Model in Neatness and Comfort.

The Elks building for beauty and utility is not surpassed by any other building in Keokuk. It is not so gigantic as it is chaste and elegant. Egypt was the great ancient home of magnificent architecture and in the period of Pericles, away back yonder about 440 before Christ, it rose to its crest when some of the finest temples of Athens were built. Then it declined with other arts and was transferred to Rome, where, however, it never attained to the same high character. In a cursory examination of the new Elks home it would seem that Egypt was alive again and that Pericles had come to Keokuk with his eminent artists, learned in all the intricate skill of the poet builder.

It would require the crafty hand and informed mind of an adept in the various orders, the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian of the Greeks, the Tuscan and Composite of the Romans, the Italian, Chinese, Saracenic, Saxon styles or the erroneously named Gothic style of Germany, with its slender pointed columns, to properly describe the building in hand. No crafty hand or informed mind in technical architecture has undertaken the task, consequently a mere commonplace story must suffice.

The elegant building stands as its own best critic and all its suggestions and comment are favorable. It tells much in mute eloquence of the taste and progressive spirit of its projectors, the Elks, the Devout Elders of Keokuk Lodge No. 106, and their excellent judgment in securing the able cooperation of Harry B. Ratcliff, architect of Keokuk, to make the splendid plans and overlook the raising of this magnificent building. Had no other work been done by him this elegant structure would be enough to give him fame as a master craftsman of the builder's art. Keokuk is to be congratulated on having so eminent a young architect residing within her limits.

While in the line of commendation it should not be overlooked that the masterful display of ornamental work of the building was done by and under the artistic eye of Louis Syberkrop, of Creston, Iowa, who has brought out with remarkable taste and skill the ideas anticipated by Mr. Ratcliff. No encomium would exaggerate the harmonizing judgment of the decorator.

The building stands proudly at the corner of Sixth and Blondeau streets, fronting on Blondeau street and is 55 by 100 feet in dimensions. There are larger buildings of a similar character in the state, but the assertion is ventured that not one in all Iowa combines within its walls more complete and elegant apartments, substantial, convenient and more beautifully ornamented, than may be found here. It is a dream home—a model Mecca



DR. F. C. SMITH, Exalted Ruler No. 106.

where the Elks and their invited guests may make frequent pilgrimages and rest or banquet as they please in quiet nook or commodious hall.

The Ground Floor.
On the ground floor is located the public cafe, 32 by 40 feet, in the corner toward Sixth street. To this large and finely-proportioned room there is an entrance from Sixth street and another from the interior of the building.

Adjoining the public cafe is a private dining room, 20x22 feet.

At the rear of the building on the Sixth street side is the Elks dining room which is 40x42 feet in dimensions. This is another large and attractive room.

Between the Elks dining room and the public cafe is the kitchen, furnished with all the modern appliances and utensils.

Besides these rooms on the ground floor or basement is a ladies' toilet, a men's toilet, storage rooms and a stairway leading to the story above.

Main or Club Room Floor.

The entrance to this floor is from the front porch on Blondeau street through a vestibule into a rotunda 23 1/2 feet in diameter which opens into all the principal rooms on that floor.

At the left hand in the front is the elegant ladies' parlor, 20x22 feet, furnished in a style in keeping with its intended use and the delightful surroundings.

On the opposite side of the front is the men's parlor of the same size, 20x22 feet appropriately and finely furnished.

Back of the men's parlor is the writing room and an apartment for the secretary's office, both of which are bounteously supplied with all the necessary material and every convenience.

Back of these is the billiard hall, roomy and well supplied with the most approved tables and farther back is the Dutch room with buffet.

Besides these several apartments on this floor there are also the coat room, toilet room, stair hall, stair to ground floor and also to the lodge room floor.

Lodge Room Floor.

At the landing of the lodge room floor there is a hall leading into the lodge room which is a beautiful and commodious apartment, very richly decorated and furnished, with an adjoining anteroom and a large and convenient property room.

At the front of the building at the left hand corner is the ladies' parlor 14 1/2 x 21 feet with toilet room adjoining.

At the right hand corner of the front is a general parlor of the same size, 14 1/2 x 21 feet.

Connecting the two parlors named above is a hall ten feet wide, leading back to the stair hall and also opening onto the porch in front of the building.

The Exterior.

The exterior of the building is of Purington repressed paving brick, trimmed with Bedford, Indiana limestone. The front porch on Blondeau street is all stone, including cornice and columns, with tile floor and marble steps. The porch is 12 feet in depth and 28 feet in length.

In the middle of the front of the building at the top is an emblematic clock with the hands marking 11 o'clock. Beneath this emblem are the letters "B. P. O. E." The clock and letters are of stone.

The stone trimming is the decorative feature of the entire building. There is a stone base up to the top of the windows of the ground story. There is the large stone belt at the line of the lodge room floor and on the plaster caps are strap ornaments of stone. A handsome stone belt marks the roof line.

Interior Decorations.
The interior decorations of the building are in splendid harmony with outside ornaments. In the Elks dining room and private dining room there is elegant wainscoting with burlap panels.

All three of the principal rooms on the ground floor have heavy beam ceilings.

The woodwork in the public and Elks dining room is of oak and the private dining room is finished with white enamel woodwork. The other rooms are finished in quarter sawed white oak.

The vestibule and rotunda have tile floors and marble wainscoting. The rotunda is a beauty. It has a dome ceiling very richly decorated.

The billiard room has burlap wainscoting, five and one-half feet high. Also heavy beams with plastered panels, arranged with an eye to the greatest

comfort and enjoyment of member and guest.

The Dutch room has a number of booths and has heavy wainscoting, and the ceiling handsomely paneled with wood.

All rooms on the lodge room floor are furnished in birch mahogany.

The ceiling of the lodge room is paneled with heavy beams, also scheme decorative paneling with wood strips.

The building throughout is well equipped with a splendid lighting system and a series of telephones connect the various rooms.

There is an exhaust fan in the Dutch room for ventilating purposes.

An excellent grade of hardware has been used throughout the building.

A splendid color scheme has been observed in every part of the building, carrying the color from room to room with such correct color taste that the shade of one room blends so harmoniously with that of the next room that no unpleasant or harsh sensations are experienced in exploring the various apartments.

Every detail was looked to with such precision and judgment that the work may be looked upon as a marvel of the architect's, the builder's and the decorator's skill. Keokuk may well be proud of this new addition to her handsome and attractive buildings as it is one of the most substantial, attractive and beautiful in the city or in the state of Iowa.

While it is modest, it is magnificent. There is no tinsel used for display. From foundation to dome it stands a pile to be admired by every lover of art in structure. The hard repressed brick, the Bedford limestone, the marble, the tiling, the hardwood and other materials, and even the tints were placed there so ingeniously that they form one harmonious whole to stand there for years as a sign of the spirit of pride and progress which Keokuk Elks possessed in the early days of the twentieth century.

This cursory story of the Keokuk Elks and their crowning achievement

characterize every attempt at telling a story of history. It should be brief. When facts run out the story should cease. If memory serves correctly it was the poet Heath who wrote:

"Historians only things of weight, Results of persons, or affairs of state, Briefly, with truth and clearness should relate; Laconic shortness memory feeds."

It is impossible to write a satisfactory history of Keokuk lodge No. 106 of the Benevolent Order of Elks. The archives are empty of necessary fact upon which to found a narrative of its early history. The devout elders included in the membership of today are bright, intelligent, loyal men to the cause for which they are banded together and devoted to the fraternity. They are well versed in the work of the order and its honorable traditions in a general way, but when it comes to precise dates or details of the career of the lodge their memories fail.

The Gate City has made diligent and persistent search for records; it has interviewed some of the oldest members of the lodge and very meagre has been the result. There are no records to be found of a date farther back in the past than the year 1905, except the framed dispensation and the framed charter. These are in a state of fair preservation.

Added to these are two private souvenirs which may be classed as conclusive data of a personal nature, yet connected closely with the history of the lodge:

John E. Craig has a watch charm which is dated beyond any official records in the archives of the lodge. It is a pretty watch charm and bears this inscription: "Presented to Past Exalted Ruler John E. Craig from the Brothers of Keokuk Lodge 106, May 7, 1891."

Frank W. Davis, who is also counted among the charter members of the lodge and a brother, who was bravely loyal throughout the troublous times experienced by the organization, keeps as a valued souvenir a receipt for dues dated May 25, 1891.

Hamilton E. Leach, exalted grand

the rights and privileges guaranteed to a subordinate lodge, U. D., by the constitution and general laws of the order: Provided, that the said lodge, U. D., conform to the constitution and general laws of the grand lodge.

Under this dispensation the lodge was duly organized in Odd Fellows' hall, Hamilton E. Leach, E. G. R., Simon Quintel, Bishop Perry chaplain, and other grand officers being present to conduct the organization.

The officers elected at this organization and the first officers of the lodge were as follows:

Howard Tucker, past exalted ruler. C. A. Warwick, exalted ruler. M. W. Hutchinson, esteemed leading knight.

Frank LeBron, esteemed loyal knight. E. R. Johnstone, esteemed lecturing knight.

Harrison Tucker, secretary. Arthur Bridgman, Jr., treasurer. Jos. A. Klein, tyler.

W. M. Goldsmith, esquire. W. P. Marshall, inner guard. D. G. Lowry, chaplain. J. W. Klein, organist.

Trustees—C. A. Warwick, W. F. Rush and A. McRae.

The young lodge leased Horn's hall at the corner of Eighth and Main streets, for their meeting place, which they occupied for several years, but in the absence of records no dates can be given and it cannot be determined just how long this hall was used or what of interest occurred there during its occupancy, except that a charter was secured and the organization became a regular subordinate lodge with all the rights and privileges of other subordinate lodges. The applicants name in the charter are as follows: M. W. Hutchinson, C. A. Maxwell, W. S. Phillips, Harrison Tucker, Arthur Bridgman, Jr., J. C. Hughes, Charles Englehardt and Morris Klein. This charter was signed by Simon Quintel, E. G. R., and attested by A. C. Moreland, gr. sec.

There were, it is said, about fifty or sixty members including those named in the charter. Among those

who went into the organization at the very beginning and given the title of charter members are A. J. Hardin, John E. Craig and Frank W. Davis, still residents of Keokuk. All the others have located elsewhere or have gone to their reward, and the dead number far more than the living.

The following are the first officers elected under the charter in 1889:

C. A. Warwick, past exalted ruler. M. W. Hutchinson, exalted ruler. Allan T. Paul, esteemed leading knight.

W. C. Maxwell, esteemed loyal knight. W. S. Phillips, esteemed lecturing knight.

Harrison Tucker, secretary. Arthur Bridgman, Jr., treasurer. Morris Klein, tyler. J. C. Hughes, esquire. Charles Englehart, inner guard. Charles L. Grice, chaplain. L. W. Klein, organist. M. W. Hutchinson, representative to the grand lodge.

Trustees—C. A. Warwick, W. S. Sample, W. M. Irwin.

Members elected but not initiated: James C. Davis, W. P. Marshall, John N. Irwin, George D. Rand, A. E. Johnstone.

The membership June 1, 1889, consisted of the following devout elders: Arthur Bridgman, Jr., Robert Bradford.

David Barrie, Lewis W. Klein, Joseph W. Klein, Morris Klein, J. M. Casey, D. R. Craig, John E. Craig, J. W. Campbell, James B. Diver, Frank W. Davis, W. P. Darwin, Howard Elliott, Charles Englehart, Charles L. Grice, W. M. Goldsmith, Frank W. Green, J. W. Hutchinson, Charles A. Hutchinson, Andrew J. Hardin, John W. Hobbs, Charles D. Horton, Joseph C. Hughes, David G. Lowry, Frank LeBron, Alex McCrae, Chas. W. Meade, William C. Maxwell, Chas. A. Pollock, Wm. S. Phillips, Allan T. Paul, Henry K. Pratt, Louis E. Pollock, Robt. S. Ranson, Milton E. Rice, William F. Rush, J. H. Sturgis, Jr., Elmer E. Shelley, William S. Sample, Charles D. Spence, William Sinton.

Changed Locations.
From Horn's hall the lodge went to the second floor of the Pond building at Fifth and Main streets, now known as the National bank building, and here a decline continued upon the order until they finally, whether from compulsion caused by financial distress or from choice, most likely the former, they held their meetings in the law office of John E. Craig, on Fifth street. Extravagant management, it is hinted, brought on the depression. Many of the members lost their lodge interest and energy, and the lodge was reduced almost to the extremity of "walking the ties." The matter of surrendering the charter was much discussed and many of the members favored this proposition, but there were a few staunch members, loyal to the lodge and its purposes who fought valiantly against the surrender proposition and turned the tide. Harrison Tucker, at a sacrifice, advanced money to pay off the indebtedness and gave relief to the struggling members. John E. Craig who was in the early days of the organization four times exalted ruler of the lodge, attended the grand lodge on several occasions, defraying his own expenses, because the local lodge was not able to vote an appropriation for that purpose. These were dark days for the Elks and it was a mighty dry pasture they were grazing on. The membership gradually shrunk to a membership roll of only about thirty. But a gleam of sunshine shone through the clouds and the membership took on a fresh courage. Adversity strengthened them and they abandoned the law office lodge room and secured a hall up stairs in the Craig building. Here they turned over a new leaf. They began to prosper a little and changed their location to the upper story of the Schlitz building, then a new brick structure at Third and Johnson streets.

A fair proportion of prosperity must have continued with them for in 1905 they took a five year lease on a hall in the Gibbons opera house building, over the State Central Savings bank and prospered wonderfully. In 1910 at the expiration of the term of the lease they renewed it with another five year term, and though this last five year term is not half way expired, they have moved out of the old house and into the new, a large, commodious modern home, a monument to their taste, energy, ambition and liberality and a credit to the city of Keokuk. The building is not yet completed and has not yet been dedicated, but they have removed their belongings to it and are using several of the rooms in the unfinished building.

There may be larger buildings of the kind in the state and more costly, but in not another city of the size of Keokuk in all the tri-states stands a building with more stately and artistic walls or more commodious—a proud monument to the taste and culture of the membership of Keokuk lodge No. 106, B. P. O. E., Sixth and Blondeau streets.

"Here the architect did not with curious skill a pile erect Of carved marble, touch or porphyry, But built a house for hospitality; No sumptuous chimney-piece of shining stone Invites the stranger's eye to gaze upon, And coldly entertain his sight; but clear And cheerful flames cherish and warm him here."

Officers and Members.
The following are the present officers and members of the lodge, and if a large increase in the membership may be taken as evidence of prosperity Keokuk Lodge No. 106 must be in a very prosperous condition. These are the present officers:

Dr. F. C. Smith, exalted ruler. W. B. Woolley, esteemed leading knight.

H. R. Cullin, esteemed loyal knight. O. S. Stanbro, esteemed lecturing knight.

LeRoy J. Wolf, secretary. J. R. Baur, treasurer. J. Ross Robertson, tyler. Trustees—B. B. Hobbs, R. A. Doherty and B. L. Auwerda.

Dr. J. M. Shaffer, chaplain. Dr. J. A. Cochran, inner guard. J. B. Howd, esquire. F. W. Loewenstein, organist. Wm. H. Reimbold, representative to grand lodge.

Standing Committees.
House Committee—Arthur Hamblton, John Nagel, LeRoy J. Wolf, H. J. Reeves and Wm. H. Reimbold.

Entertainment Committee—C. S. Abell, Ed. S. Lofton, Louis Rovane, Smith Hamill, Alvin Kraft, J. F. Meisberg and Dr. J. B. Howd.

Building Committee—John Nagel, B. B. Hobbs, H. R. Cullin, J. D. Ecker, C. F. Skirvin, Thomas H. Joyce, F. W. Davis and W. J. Roberts.

Finance Committee—C. G. Erdman, G. E. Maxwell and Leo B. Griddell.

Visiting Committee—J. W. Brinkman, John H. Wolff, Alf. C. Larson and Dr. J. A. Cochran.

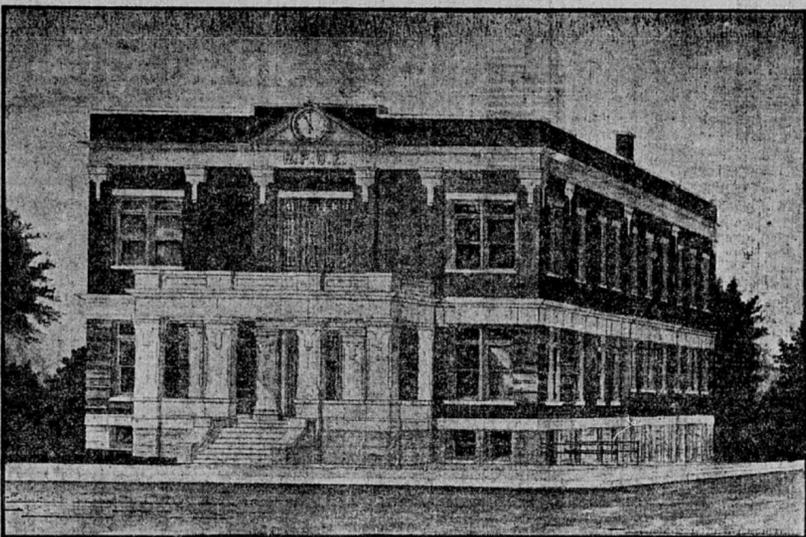
Past Exalted Rulers.
Below are given the names of the living past exalted rulers of the Keokuk lodge, who are still members of this lodge:

John E. Craig, Dr. J. M. Shaffer, Ed. F. Kirchner, James H. Roach, J. H. Reeves, H. F. Carter, Rice H. Bell, LeRoy J. Wolf, James Cameron, Wm. H. Reimbold.

Membership Roll
Following is the membership roll of the lodge:

H. C. Auwerda, Omaha, Nebr. B. L. Auwerda, Charles S. Abell, A. D. Ayres, I. S. Ackley, Dan Agne, Wm. M. Ashcraft, Des Moines, Ia. C. R. Adams, Burlington Ia. Thomas W. Agnew, C. R. Armentrout, Thomas Arnold, Delmont, S. D. C. F. Ackerman, Warsaw, Ill. Arthur J. Anderson, D. J. Alston, J. P. Allen, Edward F. Anderson, Earl Anderson, Warsaw, Ill.

(Continued on page 2.)



Beautiful new home of Keokuk Lodge No. 106, B. P. O. E., described in this article. It is located corner Sixth and Blondeau streets, and cost \$55,000.

would not be complete without a brief reference to the building committee whose performances are strikingly emphasized in the splendid building which stands before the citizens of Keokuk and its innumerable guests, a monument to all concerned and a fitting evidence of the ability, energy and enterprise displayed by this committee at every moment from the time the building was conceived until the last touch of the builders and decorators. "Well done, thou good and faithful servants," you have done your work well and you deserve the plaudits of the lodge and the public generally of Keokuk, and you shall receive your just reward of praise and honor. The building committee was organized as follows:

John Nagel, president. B. B. Hobbs, vice president. F. W. Davis, treasurer. J. D. Ecker, secretary. H. R. Cullin, Thomas H. Joyce and C. F. Skirvin, directors. W. J. Roberts, attorney.

The committee was appointed about a year and a half ago and work on the building was commenced about the first of June, 1911.

Lodge History.
Sometimes it falls to the lot of an individual to play historian without the proper data to form even a brief story. Facts and precision should

ruler of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent Order of Elks, by virtue of the power conferred upon him by the constitution and general laws of the order, and upon the application of Brothers Rev. Henry G. Perry, M. A.; Ernest Flint, George A. Treyner, Dr. L. M. Montgomery, H. J. Fuller and Dr. Z. Quintel, on the seventeenth day of November, 1888, granted a dispensation for a lodge to be known as Keokuk lodge, No. 106, under dispensation and to hold its communications in the city of Keokuk, Iowa. Accordingly he authorized and empowered the above-named upright and well-beloved devout elders and their duly initiated successors to constitute said lodge, U. D., under the name above stated, and conferred upon them all

the rights and privileges guaranteed to a subordinate lodge, U. D., by the constitution and general laws of the order: Provided, that the said lodge, U. D., conform to the constitution and general laws of the grand lodge.

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JOHN NAGEL, Chairman Building Committee



HOWARD TUCKER, First Exalted Ruler No. 106

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