

# CORNER STONE LAID.

## Impressive Ceremony Performed This Afternoon by the Masonic Fraternity.

### CULMINATION OF YEARS OF UNTIRING EFFORTS.

#### Most Grand Lodge Officers Ever Together On Like Occasion.

#### Hundreds of Visiting Masons are in the City.

#### History of the Building.

The corner stone upon Norfolk's federal building has been laid. Ceremonies for the work began at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, under auspices of the Masonic fraternity.

Masons met in their lodge room at 1 o'clock. At 2 they marched, double file, wearing their aprons, to the government building, by way of Fifth street and Madison avenue. A platform erected held the grand lodge officers and members of the city council. The craft formed a semi-circle about the corner stone. The Wisner band headed the column.

Superintendent G. K. Williams, of the construction company, requested the grand master to lay the corner stone.

M. W. Frank E. Bullard, grand master, thereupon deposited a copper casket, 5 x 6 x 10, which contained the following articles:

Roll of officers and members, Mosaic lodge No. 55, A. F. & A. M.  
Minutes of lodge meetings, June 8, 1903.

Copy of by-laws.  
Advance copy of Nebraska grand lodge proceedings, 1903.

List of grand lodge officers.  
Bronze medallion of Robert C. Jordan, first grand master of Masons in Nebraska—contributed by S. W. Hayes, P. G. M.

U. S. coins, mintage 1903.  
Copies of late Norfolk newspapers.

Advance proof sheet of DAILY NEWS article giving history of the building.

Advance proof sheet of DAILY NEWS editorial entitled "The Corner Stone of a New Era."

Card of Jas. R. Fain, superintendent of construction.

Card of Congress Construction Co., contractors, subscribed by G. K. Williams, superintendent.

Following this, James R. Fain, superintendent of construction, presented their respective tools to the grand master, who distributed them to the proper officers.

The stone was suspended six feet from its bed. Accompanied by slow music it was lowered one-third the distance, and stopped. The Masonic grand honors were given once. It was lowered another third the distance, and the grand honors were given twice. Then the stone was lowered to the bed, and the grand honors given three times.

The grand master instructed his officers to apply the square, plumb and level and they reported that the stone was truly set. The grand master spread the cement for the stone. Then he called for consecration, which was done by pouring a small quantity of wheat, wine and oil upon the stone. Then the grand master rapped three times with his gavel, and pronounced the stone truly laid. The stone was covered with flowers and the band played "America."

Here a beautifully impressive oration was delivered by the grand orator, Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, of Omaha. At the close, the band played "The Star Spangled Banner," and a collection was taken among the craft and deposited upon the stone. This is in accordance with an ancient custom, and the money will be used for the relief of any distress among workmen, caused by accident or otherwise.

The benediction was then pronounced, and the craft marched back to the lodge rooms, where they were dismissed.

Hundreds of visitors are in the city for the ceremonies. Among the distinguished guests are: Representative T. F. Memminger, ex-Senator Allen, Mayor Smith, of Madison; Congressman McCarthy, of O'Neill; and Senator Warner, Dakota City.

The grand lodge officers present are: M. W. Frank E. Bullard, G. M.; R. W. C. E. Barnham, deputy G. M.; V. W. Luther M. Kuhns, G. O.; W. Michael Dowling, G. S. D.; W. A. Debord, G. S. D.; J. E. Ehrhardt, P. G. M.

To fill vacancies the following were appointed: M. W. John A. Erhardt, G. S. W.; M. W. R. E. Evans, grand treasurer; W. N. D. Jackson, G. secretary; W. Beecher, G. chaplain; W. E. H. Tracy, G. marshal; stewards, W. H. Bucholz, M. D. Tyler, J. F. Poucher, S. G. Dean.

There are a larger number of grand lodge officers gathered here today than have ever been together on a similar occasion in the history of Nebraska.

The consecration ceremony was done with three vessels of antique history, which were collected in Egypt by George W. Liniger and which are, no doubt, a thousand years old, or more. They were presented to the grand lodge of Nebraska by Mr. Liniger.

The following reception committee was appointed by Mayor Hazen, to entertain the guests of the city: W. N. Huse, R. H. Reynolds, C. D. Jenkins, G. A. Luikart, W. M. Robertson, E. A. Bullock, S. L. Gardner, John R. Hays, Jack Koenigstein, Dr. A. Bear, Dr. P. H. Salter, Dr. W. G. Wilkinson, W. H. Johnson, E. P. Weatherby, M. D. Tyler, Sol. G. Mayer, C. H. Reynolds, W. C. Roland, P. F. Sprecher.

The reception committee appointed by the Masons are: S. W. Hayes, W. H. Bucholz, A. Bear, S. G. Dean, G. A. Luikart.

The Madson band is here and the

Wisner band will give a concert at 4:30 o'clock.

Nearly all business houses were closed between the hours of 2:30 and 3:30 this afternoon.

The following complimentary program is being rendered by the Wisner K. P. band, H. Compton, director:

March—"Under the American Eagle," Ellis. (Rice Music Co., Boston.)

Overture—"From Dawn till Twilight," Bennett.

Negro Oddy—"A Little Bit of Essence," Rollinson.

Concert Waltz—"Hearts Courageous," Blanke.

Two Step—"Colored Ragmuffins," Henry.

Idyl—"The Mill in the Forest," Ellensberg.

Tone Picture—"In Nature's Garden," Berliner.

Intermezzo—"Hiawatha Moret." (The \$10,000 composition, published by Whitney Warner Co., Detroit.)

March—"Postscript," Compton.

History of Norfolk Federal Building.

The ceremony by which is laid the corner stone of the United States federal building in Norfolk at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, June 18, A. D. 1903, marks the formal culmination of a long series of efforts which have been put forth by the citizens of this community during the past twelve years, and which have at length been realized because, in a large degree, of a fortunate connection of links in a chain of circumstances.

For a period of years Norfolk has wanted a government building. During a period of years events of one sort and another, under the personal influence of several different men, have been shaping themselves in such a way that the laying of this corner stone today is no longer a dream in the distant future, but a material fact. Not so much through the size of the city nor through its geographical position nor because of its resources and industries, is the credit for this building due, as it is to the personal power which has been employed toward the obtaining of it, by a few influential men, favorably inclined toward the city of Norfolk for motives largely political.

Locally, much has been done to establish this structure by the united efforts of the business men of the city and by John R. Hays and William M. Robertson, particularly, who have each represented the citizens of the city, at Washington and elsewhere, in attempts to secure an appropriation from congress. Outside of the men of Norfolk, who have worked toward this end, the names of David H. Mercer, Wm. Y. Allen, George W. E. Dorsey, John S. Robinson and Joseph H. Millard are inseparable from the building's history.

As far back as 1890 the people of Norfolk thought of, and took definite steps toward securing a public building. At that time George W. E. Dorsey of Fremont was representative in congress from this district, and the matter was mentioned to him. He was heartily in favor of the plan and immediately began an effort to get bills through congress which would give buildings to Fremont and Norfolk.

Senator Manderson was at that time in the upper branch of congress from Nebraska and his sympathies were enlisted. He introduced the bill in the senate. During this session John R. Hays and Rome Miller were sent to Washington from Norfolk, to further the movement. They remained two weeks and accomplished much, even though the bill did not pass. It was passed through the senate, but before it could be brought up in the house, congress adjourned.

During their stay in the national capital, Mr. Hays and Mr. Miller used the old bird's eye views of Norfolk to show members of the committee to whom the matter was referred, just why Norfolk was a city worthy of a building of this sort. The views were effective and it was thought that had the bill been brought to a vote, it might have passed at that session.

Fremont got a building. In order to even things a bit, Mr. Dorsey was persuaded to make Norfolk a federal court town and it was so slated, others in the state being Omaha, Lincoln and Hastings. This fact had considerable weight later with members of congress, who otherwise could see no reason why Norfolk should have a postoffice building.

Following this, the next move of importance in connection with the building was the passage of a bill by congress in 1899, appropriating \$10,000 for the purchase of a site for a government building. This bill was introduced in the senate by Senator Allen, who at that time was a member from this state, and was energetically pushed by him until it passed the house. The site was selected by Secretary of the Treasury Gage, at the corner of Madison avenue and Fourth street.

During the winter of 1901-2, came the critical time for Norfolk and during that session of congress came the passage of a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the construction of a federal court and postoffice building. The passage came mainly through the efforts and influence

of David H. Mercer, chairman of the committee on public lands and buildings in the house. But for his efforts in Norfolk's behalf, it is very probable that this city might not have at present, and possibly might not have had for many years, a United States government building. And Mr. Mercer was willing to work for this city because he felt kindly disposed toward the people in general and because he was glad of an opportunity to show his appreciation of former favors, to William M. Robertson in particular.

"Whenever I can do anything for you, remember I shall do it," Mr. Mercer had said to Mr. Robertson many years before. Knowing this, the Commercial club selected Mr. Robertson to interview the chairman of public grounds and buildings before congress convened. And in that interview Mr. Mercer simply said, "Norfolk shall have a public building just as surely as congress meets."

A bill for the appropriation of \$75,000 for that purpose was introduced early in the session by Congressman John S. Robinson, in the house and by Senator Millard in the senate. The bill was referred to the committee of which Mr. Mercer was chairman. He placed the bill in an omnibus bill, which provided for public buildings all over the country. While it was in this condition the people of Norfolk became anxious and sent Mr. Robertson to Washington to learn what was being done. This visit was not, as it afterwards was shown, absolutely necessary, as Mr. Mercer was giving all possible care to the city's interests. Shortly after Mr. Robertson's trip, which lasted for a month, Mercer wrote to say that he had decided Norfolk ought to have an especially nice building, and that he had added \$25,000 to the amount. And thus it was that the city comes to have a building worth \$100,000 when only three-fourths of the sum was asked for.

Following is a copy of the letter, which shows why the amount was increased, and also shows where much of the credit is due:

Washington, D. C., April 30, 1902—Hon. W. M. Robertson, Norfolk, Neb.: Dear Bob—Your letter thanking me for what I have done for Norfolk received. As you know the bill was introduced in the house authorizing \$75,000 for Norfolk. I concluded that \$100,000 was not too much for the good people of your city and reported that amount in the omnibus bill. You will remember that you have a site, so that the \$100,000 will go into the building and will give you a magnificent structure. I am anxious to have a building something like the one that stands in Annapolis, Maryland, placed in Norfolk. It is colonial in style, beautiful in appearance of course and will be a source of pride to the citizens of Norfolk and the people of Nebraska generally. My promise made to you in Omaha has been fulfilled.

Yours truly,  
DAVID H. MERCER.

The bill was referred back to the house for passage, did pass and then was passed through the senate of the United States.

Upon the signature of Theodore Roosevelt, president, on June 6, 1902, the bill became a law.

After that the regular routine of work on the plans required several months, the contract was let to the Congress Construction company, of Chicago for \$8,000, the building to be completed by May 1, 1904. On the first of March James R. Fain, superintendent of construction, arrived and shortly after the excavation began, under superintendency of G. K. Williams.

It is thought now that by the beginning of the year 1904 the building whose corner stone is laid today will be completed, to remain a permanent monument to the untiring efforts of Norfolk men; the move of George W. E. Dorsey in making this a court town; the introduction of the bill by Senator Allen for the purchase of a site; and finally to the favorable influence of David H. Mercer in reporting for passage the bill which had been introduced in the house by the late John S. Robinson, which had been sincerely supported not only by him but also by his political friends, and which had been introduced in the senate by J. H. Millard.

The Corner Stone of a New Era.

The laying of the corner stone of Norfolk's new federal building has a deeper significance than that a mere building is being erected on an enduring foundation. Results will be felt throughout the city and this section of the state. On the corner stone laid today rests the city's permanency, which will be as firm and lasting as the stone on which will be erected the superstructure paid for out of the government treasury.

It is the corner stone of a new era that has dawned in Norfolk—an era of progress and improvement of a substantial character, much of which is already apparent and more is as certain to follow as it is that on the foundation now laid will be erected a handsome edifice. It is not a boom era, but one of as steady and substantial advancement as will be the walls as they follow above the corner stone.

At the same time the foundation for a handsome government building is being laid other improvements of about the same importance to the city and the section of country are under way.

The Northwestern railway company has men and teams at work creating a foundation on which will be placed improvements worth thousands of dollars at South Norfolk in the way of new switch yards, a new engine house, new machine shops and a new coaling system.

The state architect is preparing plans for the restoration of the Norfolk hospital for the insane on the hill north-

east of Norfolk, which is to be fire-proof throughout and for the erection of which \$100,000 has been appropriated by the state legislature.

The government has installed a system of free delivery of mail to the people of the city, that has just been inaugurated and is now well under way.

The Nebraska Telephone company is adding hundreds of dollars of value to its system, of which Norfolk is an important center, by placing a metallic circuit between here and Creighton.

The Sugar City Cereal Mills is to invest a large amount of money in adding permanency to their plant here.

The News has commenced the work of improving its already mod-1 printery and when the work is done will almost be entitled to a class with those of modern metropolitan plants. A new composing machine, new heating plant, two new presses to take the place of one old one; an additional new engine, and a new addition for a storage room and other uses will be among the improvements.

I. M. Macy has accepted plans for a new and modern brick building for the accommodation of his photograph studio and art work, constructive work on which is to commence at an early date.

And there is being planned the construction of an electric railway system that will agreeably shorten some of Norfolk's long distances for those who have occasion to measure them frequently.

Besides all this in the way of public and semi-public improvements there are numbers of new homes going up in various parts of the city and numerous improvements to residence and business properties that may be small separately, but in the aggregate run into the thousands of dollars.

Therefore when it is said that the laying of the corner stone of Norfolk's public building is typical of the foundation that has been laid for the upbuilding of Norfolk it is not mere guess work nor a wild assertion unsubstantiated by facts.

The appropriation for the building here was the starting point for the progress and improvement that has followed in its wake and is still to come. Those who assisted in securing that recognition from the government are to be credited with much of the incentive to improvement that has followed, and Norfolk should not soon forget the benefits that have resulted nor fail to credit the men with a just share of the praise and repay in kind at any and every opportunity presented. It was through Nebraska's representatives in congress and a number of the leading men of the city and state that Norfolk's needs were brought to the attention of the government with the happy result shown today.

Norfolk is now queen of the situation in North Nebraska—the metropolis of a large and fertile section of a fertile country that is but just attaining development from the primitive prairie conditions which it has known for ages.

Norfolk has been lying dormant for a number of years but the foundation of a city has been laid permanently and well and there will be no retrogression. The village of a few years ago is blossoming into a city that is destined to be to the country west and north what Lincoln is to the South Platte territory. Norfolk is hastening to occupy this sphere that will require energy, ability and resource to maintain, but she has it and it will be added to as occasion requires. The city is practically without a competitor in as fine a location and territory as lies out of doors. Her future is rosy with promise and those who have invested and are investing are fully justified and are supported by excellent judgment.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone is significant of this new era, and the work of securing the appropriation furnished the incentive for its inception which has been augmented by the wonderful prosperity and growth of this section of the state.

Saengerfest Opens at St. Louis. St. Louis, June 18.—One of the greatest festivals of music in the history of the country was inaugurated last night in the Liberal Arts building at the World's fair grounds, when 15,000 spectators listened to the opening concert of the thirty-first national saengerfest, given under the auspices of the North American Saengerbund. The opening night's program included famous vocal soloists, a mixed chorus of 6,000 voices and one of the largest orchestras ever assembled in America.

Baseball Results. National League—Philadelphia, 4; New York, 7. Boston, 3-6; Brooklyn, 2-14. American League—New York, 1; Chicago, 0. Boston, 1-6; Cleveland, 3-1. Philadelphia, 11; St. Louis, 1. American Association—Toledo, 3; Milwaukee, 2. Louisville, 4; St. Paul, 6. Indianapolis, 3; Minneapolis, 0. Columbus, 15; Kansas City, 9.

Western League—St. Joseph, 8; Omaha, 4. Kansas City, 11; Des Moines, 5. Colorado Springs, 9; Peoria, 1. Milwaukee, 1; Denver, 0.

Hungarian Cabinet is Out. Budapest, June 17.—Premier Deszell announced in the lower house of the Hungarian diet that he had tendered his resignation to King Francis Joseph and that his majesty has accepted it.

J. J. Frey Critically Ill. Sedalia, Mo., June 17.—J. J. Frey, for several years general manager of the Santa Fe railway, who has been bedfast for two weeks, is pronounced critically ill with uremic poisoning.

### THREE KILLED IN COLLISION.

Passenger Train Runs Into Gravel Train at Elmira, Ia.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., June 18.—Three men were killed and four injured as the result of a collision of a Rock Island passenger train and a gravel train at Elmira, twenty miles south of here. The accident was caused by the failure of the gravel train to clear the main track before the passenger arrived.

The dead: Eldon Herring of Lisbon; Earl Herring of Lisbon, and Fred Reischer of Davenport.

Injured: T. A. Myers, passenger, Cedar Rapids, internally serious; James Barnes, baggage man, leg, arm and thigh broken, serious; Barnes, fireman gravel train, jaw broken; Theodore Neche of Traer, passenger, ribs broken. A number of passengers sustained minor hurts.

Colored Man the First Graduate. Mason City, Ia., June 18.—Memorial university, founded by the Sons of Veterans, has closed its first year and the first graduate was James Leggett, a colored man, whose parents were slaves. Regent Morris announced that General Francis M. Drake had pledged the university \$35,000, and stated that \$100,000 would be raised during the coming year. Memorial university was founded as a memorial to federal soldiers of the civil war.

Jury Acquits Trolley Strikers.

Waterbury, Conn., June 18.—The trial of the eight trolley strikers charged with assault with intent to murder Conductor William Merna and Motorman George Morrisette on Feb. 26, resulted in the acquittal of the accused. The verdict was greeted by a tumult of applause.

Mills and Elevator Burn.

Arkansas City, Kan., June 18.—The mills and elevator of the Arkansas City Milling company were destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$100,000. Tom Yount, an employe, was so badly burned that he died in a few minutes. Major C. H. Seavoring, president of the company, was severely burned.

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On sale June 30, July 1, 2, 3 and 4.  
Detroit, Mich. .... 21.00  
On sale July 14 and 15.  
Baltimore, Md. .... 32.25  
On sale July 17 and 18.  
Saratoga Springs, N. Y. .... 32.20  
On sale July 5 and 6.  
Buffalo, N. Y. .... 41.50  
Port Huron, Mich. .... 22.05  
Pittsburg, Pa. .... 38.45  
Alpena, Mich. .... 25.66  
Waterloo, Ia. .... 11.85  
St. Paul, Minn. .... 12.50  
Minneapolis, Minn. .... 12.50  
Duluth, Minn. .... 16.50  
Waterville, Minn. .... 10.50  
Waseka, Minn. .... 10.50  
Fairbault, Minn. .... 10.50  
Northfield, Minn. .... 10.50  
Clear Lake, Ia. .... 10.70  
Spirit Lake, Ia. (Okoboji) .... 9.95  
Tickets are on sale daily during June, July, August and September, good for return until Oct. 31, 1903.

ABOVE RATES ARE FOR ROUND TRIP TICKETS.  
Homeseekers' round trip tickets on sale to points in the North, Northwest, South and Southeast on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month. Also one way saloonist rates to points South and Southeast on same dates. Summer tours via Duluth or Chicago and Steamer via the Great Lakes.

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