Goes Imo the Home THE OMAHA BEE

VOL. XXXVIII-NO. 1.

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 21, 1908.

SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

NEBRASKA MASONIC GRAND LODGE AND ITS ACTIVITIES

Something About the Great Secret Fraternity that Has Quietly Built Up Its Effective Organization Among the Citizenship of the State and Has Carried On Its Charities Without Ostentation

OR the first time in a number of years the grand master of Nebraska Freemasonry is a resident of Omaha, the master chosen at the last session of the grand lodge being William A. DeBord. Omaha has been the home of a large number of past masters of the organization, the oldest past master now being Daniel H. Wheeler, who, however, was not a resident of the city at the time he was at the head of the organization.

At the last session of the grand lodge memorial services were held in honor of one of the most distinguished Masons of the present generation, a former grand master and resident of Omaha, Hon. George W. Lininger-the "father" of the Masonic home of the state and one of the most earnest students of Masonry in the world.

Past Grand Master Lininger was one of the men who early saw that the work of the order in Nebraska should be along the lines of that adopted in Great Britain if it were to meet that degree of success which its objects warrant. Previous to the evolution of the idea of the Masonic home the various lodges of the state and the individual members had done much in the way of organized relief of distressed brothers and their families, but, with the exception of an inter-lodge relief committee maintained in Omaha for a number of years, there was no especially organized effort toward relieving members and their families.

Beginnings of the Home

A number of the brethren, as early as 1866, started the movement for the education of the orphans of Masons. Donations received that year were from Jonathan N. Wise of Plattsmouth, O. H. irish and J. N. H. Patrick. This fund of \$30 was the neucleus around which grew the fund which resulted in the purchase and maintenance of the Masonic home, but the establishment of a home was at that time no part of the idea of the donors. The next money to be received by the fund was a donation by Champion S. Chase of \$10.50, the next year. This fund grew until 1887, when the suggestic of a Masonic home was first made. In 1888 a corporation was organized to carry out the object, and Mr. Lininger was elected president. When it came to locating the home Omaha was the choice of the holders of 134 shares; Plattsmouth received twenty-one votes and York six. . The matter rested in this condition for several years and it was not until 1903 that the home was finally established. In all of these years Mr. Lininger worked early and late to keep interest alive. On his visits to Europe he studied methods and systems and never permitted the interest to decline.

However, all of the work of Past Grand Master Lininger would not have availed to establish the home as it now exists with the money at hand had it not been for Francis E. White, the present grand secretary of the order. Mr. White was one of the pioneer residents of Plattsmouth and had builded a home for his family at that place, which was one of the largest houses in the town. It was surrounded by large grounds and located in one of the most beautiful building sites in the city. Upon Mr. White's election as grand secretary of the order he found it advisable to move to Omaha to reside and his residence at Plattsmouth was offered to the grand lodge as a Masonic home for about one-third of what the ground and building had originally cost. It took the grand lodge but a short time to decide that the offer should be accepted and under its instructions the Home was formally opened by the grand lodge September 1, 1903. Mr. Lininger's name will always be connected with the Masonic Home and in his will he gave largely to its funds.

Quality of the Order

The running expenses of the home are secured by annual dues wiser. Literature, lecturers, philosophers, poets, all, vie with each to purchase at any figure.

For this reason there is no desire on the part of the organtratton to make a large showing of membership. Like all other human grand tyler, institutions it appreciates prosperity, but in its history and tradition, running back almost to the dawn of civilization, it has learned that the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong-at least not as swiftness and strength are understood by the superficial. The idea of selecting quality rather than quantity was not more firmly impressed upon Gideon than it has been upon Freemasonry in America, and sometimes the lesson has been one which

In the light of this knowledge the growth of the order in the state is not only something to be appreciated by the society, but speaks volumes for the citizenship of the state. The returns to the grand lodge shows that 1,700 persons were made Master Masons in from the standpoint of population Nebraska is one of the strongest

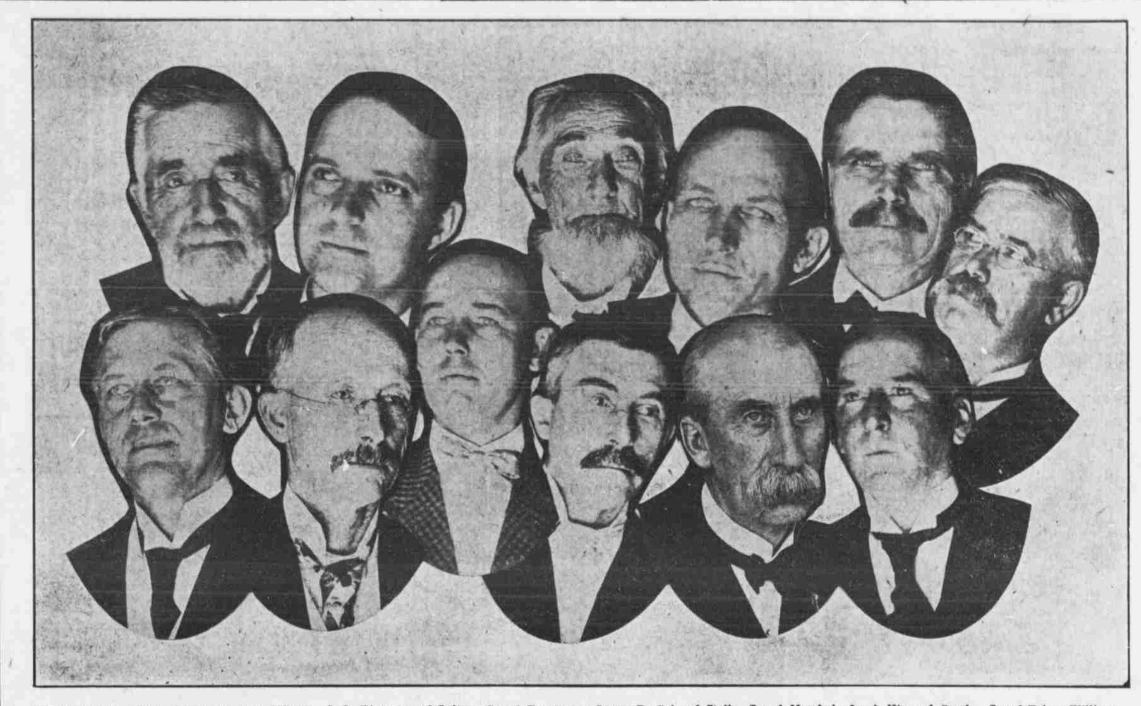
As the lodge has grown with the growth of the tate it can readily be understood that the history of the commonwealth is to a great extent reflected in this history of the order. The Nebraska pioneers came from Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, largely. There was none of the "transcendental" effort at colonization in Nebraska that marked the early settlement of its sister state, Kansas, and it can easily be understood that these pioneers in feeling the necessity of a lodge-home in their new surroundings looked to the earlier associations to provide such place; so the first lodge organized in the territory was chartered by the grand lodge of Illinois, the second by the grand lodge of Missouri and the third by the grand lodge of intents and purposes hereinafter expressed and Iowa. While the institution of the first lodge at Bellevue is an oft declared of and concerning the same; that is to told tale it is not so generally known that the first petition received say, to purchase a site for a school in the city of by any Masonic lodge in the state was signed by Peter A. Sarpy, the Omaha and erect proper buildings thereon for a man in whose honor Sarpy county was named, and who was the school of the class and grade of a college, expendowner of the building in which the first lodge was opened. He was ing in the purchase of said site and the building initiated into the order January 5, 1856, at Council Bluffs, Ia., as of said buildings, and in and about the same, not the infant lodge had neither the facilities nor the house for the to exceed one-half of said sum, and to invest the work. The first person to receive the third degree in the state was remainder in securities, the interest of which Henry T. Clarke, who is proving his youth at this time by making shall be applied to the support and maintenance; active efforts before both the republican and democratic national and the principal shall be kept forever inviolate. conventions to secure the restoration of steamboats on the Missouri When said buildings shall be ready for occupancy river, and making that stream today, as it was in the dawn of for such school the said executors shall convey Masonic light in the territory, one of the main channels of commerce all of said property, including said site, building

Growth in Nebraska

While there is some doubt as to who composed the membership of the first lodge in the state there is none as to the membership of the second, which was authorized by the grand lodge of Missouri and opened at Nebraska City, May 29, 1855, and chartered May 28, and is designed by me as a memorial for my late 1856, under the name of Giddings lodge No. 156. The third lodge, chartered by the grand lodge of Iowa, was organized at Omaha and to his virtues and my affection to his memory bewas chartered June 2, 1857. It is interesting to note that A. R. cause such a work was one which he in his life-Gilmore, who had been one of the charter members of the lodge at time proposed to himself." Bellevue, was also a charter member of the lodge at Omaha.

These three lodges held their numbers, 1, 2 and 3, from the formation of the grand lodge of the state, at which time they dropped beginning of Creighton university. the numbers held by them in the grand lodges wherein they were chartered. The first petition to be received by the Omaha lodge was band, and he had intended to provide in his will from Alfred D. Jones, who seems to have had a penchant for being for its establishment. He died intestate Novemthe "first man to do things" in the infant metropolis.

New and Old Officers of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Nebraska



Top Row, from Left to Right, the New Officers-J. B. Dinsmore of Sulton, Grand Treasurer; James R. Cain of Stella, Grand Marshal; Jacob King of Omaha, Grand Tyler; William A. DeBord of Omaha, Grand Master; Francis E. White of Omaha, Grand Secretary; Alpha Morgan of Broken Bow, Grand Senior Deacon. Bottom Row, from Left to Right, the Retiring Officers-Rev. S. D. Dutcher of Omaha, Grand Chaplain; Thomas M. Davis of Beaver City, Grand Junior Deacon; Harry A. Cheney of Creighton, Grand Senior Warden; Ornan J. King of Lincoln, Past Grand Master; Michael Dowling of Omaha, Deputy Grand Master; Henry Gibbon of Kearney, Grand Junior Warden.

fund for relief purposes which is raised by a law of the order; for, furnishing the first grand master to come from this city until the election of Grand Master siderable revenue, which makes it possible to keep the lodge rooms mily remarked. "Masonry is an institution peculiar was Robert C. Jordan of what is now Capitol lodge No. 3, then No. DeBord. unto itself. It follows none, patterns after none and competes with 101 on the Iowa rolls. Other officers installed at that time were none." For this reason the order shuns publicity. The most genial Leavitt L. Bowen, Bellevue, deputy grand master; David Lindley, recent years it has probably had the grand lodge officer longest in fellows on earth will hold festal meetings from time to time. The Nebraska Masonry had experienced its most prosperous year in that flow of wit and humor; the height and depth of sentiment, the scin- junior grand treas- King. Jacob King was selected as grand tyler so long ago that the just closed. There were years when there were a larger number of tillations of the finest cratory are spread for the edification of the urer; George Armstrong, Omaha, grand secretary; H. N. Cornell, memory of few members of the contrary, lodges formed, but none in which the condition of the existing lodges brethren, and aside from those assembled brethren none are the Nebraska City, grand marshal; John M. Chivington, Omaha, grand He has not missed a regular session of the grand lodge and few of were so satisfactory. chaplain. (Mr. Chivington was a Methodist minister and later an the special communications. other in presenting to their fellows without money and without officer in the volunteer army of the United States whose method of From the time the office of the grand lodge, with the grand elation in "applied" Masonry if such an adjective may be permitted price products of their mind which the world believes itself fortunate Indian fighting was too drastic to meet the approval of Uncle Sam); secretary was established in Omaha, the election of a grand sec- in this connection. The order has its problems, which it is solving Charles W. Hamilton, Omaha, senior grand deacon; John A. Nye, retary has been practically considered the selection of a man to fill in its own quiet, determined manner. It increases in wealth as it Bellevue, grand junior descon, and Joseph P. Manning of Omaha, that place for life, Secretary White succeeded Secretary Bowen, who grows in years and the appeal is becoming stronger on the practical

> Wheeler, now the oldest grand master in the state, being chosen to such other business as may be necessary. grand master in 1863. The total membership at this time was 150.

Locally Maschry has prospered with the prosperity of the city.

paid by each member of the lodge in the state, and this is the only lodge of Nebraska was formed, and Omaha in 1899, being the last grand while the lower floor, rented for commercial purposes, returns a con-While Omaha has been "shy" in the matter of grand masters in in the building company.

The retiring grand master of the order in the state declared that

The passing of the years promises to work something of a revhad filled the place for several years. He is, incidentally, secretary side than on the theoretical. New conditions arise and new manners The total membership of lodges which composed the grand or recorder of all of the grand Masonic bodies of the state connected come, but as the days go on those who have watched and cared for lodge of the state at that time was not to exceed seventy-one. One with the York rite, and a visit to his office at any time demonstrates the craft in the state find that new men come as strong and as year later there were three lodges added to the original number, the the scope and importance of the order in the state and its remark- devoted as those who go; that the light of Masonry is neither dimmed number of lodges having doubled in twelve months. In one of these able growth since the day when the grand secretary was paid \$150 by lack of interest nor outshone by the glitter of the world and three new lodges appears for the first time the name of Daniel H. a year for writing the minutes of the grand lodge and attending that, all things considered, the order is each year growing in strength and usefulness.

In the fifty-one years of its existence on the material side it can Capitol lodge having passed the older lodges and showing a total At an early day in the history of the order in the city a corporation point to nearly 20,000 Masons attached to the grand body, to pracmembership of forty-five. It was under the mastership of Daniel H. was formed among the various lodges for the purpose of acquiring tically 250 lodges, all at work and a home for distressed Masons and Wheeler that the Nebraska grand lodge began to expand, and and maintaining a lodge room. The "temple" at Sixteenth street and their families which will favorably compare with the homes of older lodges were authorized in Idaho, Montana, and one with the First Capitol avenue was the result of this move and the acquisition of the and stronger jurisdictions. This is the public, the material side of Nebraska regiment at the front. Next to Major Wheeler the oldest grounds was one of the financial masterstrokes of the craft. With Masonry-as it appeals to the people at large, for strive as it may, the fiscal year 1907-8, and that the total number of Master Masons surviving past grand master is Harry P. Deuel (1869-70), then the growth of the lodges in numbers the rooms have been remodelled the light of Masonry cannot be entirely hidden and those things in good standing was 16,393 on the rolls March 31, 1908. Considered comes Martin Dunham (1873), George H. Thummell (1876). Other and improved. The latest renovation is scarcely complete at this time, which are done in secret proclaim themselves to the world. On past masters living in Omaha are C. K. Coutant (1886), John J. but the lodge rooms and other parts of the building are now equipped its less material side it is no less active and its lessons are seen, if of Masonic jurisdictions, and its work demonstrated the activity of Mercer (1889), Bradner D. Slaughter (1891), Judge W. W. Keysor with all necessary devices and may be taken as model lodge rooms, not known as such, wherever man meets man in business or society.

Creighton University's Birth and Great Prosperity

TEM. I will and bequeath unto my said ex- she carried out the latter. ecutors the further sum of \$100,000, to be by them received, held, kept, invested and reinvested in like manner, but upon the

trust, nevertheless, and to and for the uses, and securities, to the Rt. Rev. Bishop of the Roman Catholic church having jurisdiction in Omaha and his successors in office upon trusts to be autly expressed in the deed of conveyance securing said property to the purpose aforesaid. The said school shall be known as the Creighton college. husband. I have selected this mode of testifying

This item in the will of Mrs. Mary Lucretia Creighton, wife of Edward Creighton, marks the

The idea of the university was that of her husber 5, 1874. His widow inherited his estate and In "Omaha City, N. T." September 23, 1857, the first grand his idea and by means of money from the former

Acting on this bequest, the executors of Mrs. Creighton's will, John A. Creighton, James Creighton and Herman Kountze, bought the present site of the university and proceeded to erect what is now known as the main building of the university. The entire property and securities were transferred July 1, 1878, to the Rt. Rev. James O'Connor, first bishop of Omaha.

On February 27, 1879, the state legislature passed an act to provide for the incorporation of universities under certain circumstances. In pursuance of this act Bishop O'Connor, on July 26, 1879, took the necessary steps and on August 14, 1879, the university was incorporated.

Bishop O'Connor, however, found it impossible to conduct the college himself. Therefore, he asked that the trust be transferred, and on December 4, 1879, a deed of trust was executed whereby he conveyed all the property and securities of Creighton college to Creighton university.

The funds invested for the support of the college had been increased from the division of the residue of the estate of Mrs. Creighton, so that when the Creighton university accepted the trust the endowment fund amounted to \$145,500. As university endowments run, this was pitifully small, and even to those experienced in the economical management of Catholic colleges it seemed a hazardous undertaking to build up and develop a free college on a financial basis of nothing more than the annual interest on this sum.

But it was the Jesuits who had taken hold of the young institution. Their workers receive no salaries and, though in this instance they realised the financial difficulties, they consented to face

It is from this small beginning that the present

great institution, with an endowment of \$2,000,- poor." 000, has arisen. And while the great part of its physical growth was due to the munificence of the Creightons, particularly of Count John A. Creighton, much of it was also due to the tireless activity of the Jesuit fathers who have labored incessantly for its upbuilding.

From extremely humble beginnings the university has been developed into one of the strongest institutions in the west, with a splendid endowment, unsurpassed faculty, four affiliated schools, each housed in a handsome and substantial modern structure in the heart of the city, and each provided with an excellent teaching staff and the best of apparatus. In 1907 there were more than 700 students in the departments of the university and this year the increase has been even larger than usual.

December 6, 1877, was an important day. On that day Father Romanus A. Shaffel arrived in Omaha to prepare for the opening of the college in the beginning of January. James Creighton bought the necessary furniture for a little cottage in which Father Shaffel lived until the interior of the college was completed sufficiently for occu-

On the 22d of August, 1878, the faculty of the new college began to arrive, Father Hubert Peters, Messrs. A. Beile, M. Eicher and W. Rigge coming that day. Edward A. O'Brien and Mrs. Hall, both seculars, came a few days later from

Creighton college opened on Monday, September 2, 1878, with 120 students in attendance.

"The parents of the boys," writes Father Eicher, "belonged for the most part to the working class. Many of them lived in the poorer quarters of the town and not a few of them were

The names of the men who have been president of Creighton university from its beginning to the present time are as follows:

Romanus A. Shaffel, October, 1878, to September, 1880.

Thomas H. Miles, to October, 1883.

J. Zealand, to July, 1884. H. Finnegan, to July, 1885.

Michael P. Dowling, to March, 1889. Thomas S. Fitzgerald, to June, 1891. James F. X. Hoeffer, to December, 1894.

John Pahls, to November, 1898. Michael P. Dowling, to February, 1908. Eugene A. Magevney, to the present time.

Concerning Omaha in that early day, Father James A. Dowling, one of the pioneer vice presi-"I arrived in Omaha in May, 1881, after a

nineteen hours' ride from Chicago. We came across the river from Council Bluffs in the 'dummy.' In 1881 the highest class in the university was the first academic and on account of the small number of pupils it contained was taught by the same professor as the second academic. Besides these there were two rudiment classes, two commercial classes and the third academic. Each of the lower classes contained about fifty pupils. In those days the large boys were decidedly in the minority."

A laboratory building was the first addition to the university. This came early in 1884 and was occupied by the physical and chemical depart-

Next came the observatory in 1886. John A. Creighton had presented the institution with a five-inch telescope. There was also an excellent

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