

Lodges

Rhodes Rebekah Lodge #362

In October of 1896, Rhodes Rebekah Lodge #362 was chartered with the following members: Alice Flora, Levi Flora, James Francis, Mary Francis, J.S. Goodwin, Josie Grant, Mary Gray, Emma Marsh, George Marsh, Carrie Satterfield, John Satterfield, John West.

The officers of the first lodge were:

Mrs. Emma Marsh	 Noble Grand
Mrs. Carrie Satterfield	 Vice Grand
Mrs. Josie Grant	 Secretary
Mrs. Alica Flora	 Treasurer
Mrs. Mary Francis	 Warden
J.S. Goodwin	 Conductor
John West	 O.G.
Levi Flora	 I.G.
John Satterfield	 R.S.N.G.
Mary Gray	 R.S.V.G.
George Marsh	 L.S.V.G.

The initial Order was a closed organisation, which means only wives, sisters, and mothers of Oddfellows could be members. Since that time the rules have been changed to permit women of age eighteen or older, who believe in a Supreme Being and are of good moral character, to become members.

The first available detailed minutes of meetings begin in 1905. One of the amusing things, found in the early minutes, was the way payment of hall rent was bounced around. A bill of \$20.00 for six months rent was presented and after lengthy discussion, it was tabled. Then, several meetings later (when new officers were in), the statement was presented again and allowed.

In 1944, the Lodge moved to its present building; renting the upper floor for \$2.00 per month. Members had to clean and renovate the hall as it had been unused for quite some time.

In 1945, the Oddfellows reorganized and purchased the building. The Rebekah's helped to pay for the building as well as the maintenance fee and now have complete control of the building.

At one time, the Rebekah's had a membership drive and went out two at a time to recruit new members. Time and changes in our life style have depleted the membership. In 1963, Collins Rebekah Lodge was consolidated with Rhodes and the roles were increased by seventeen with that merger. It has been an extremely happy and beneficial relationship.

In 1946, Rhodes Rebekah Lodge #362 celebrated its Golden Anniversary; 123 members and guests were present. The first Noble Grand, Mrs. Emma Marsh Adams of California, was introduced and responded to

the welcome. Mrs. Robert (Fern) Richeson was in charge of an elaborate program for the celebration.

In 1968 the Lodge decided to move to the lower floor of the building. The hall was in quite a state of disrepair and the Rebekahs worked very hard to make it a pleasant meeting place. Access to the Lodge is now much easier without the stairs to climb.

In 1971 the 75th anniversary of the Lodge was celebrated with an open house; Mrs. Claire (Adria) Gibbs was in charge and many of the former members attended. Mrs. Fern Richeson, the Noble Grand on our 50th anniversary, presided at the refreshment table. History of the Lodge was presented along with momentos and copies of some of the activities.

The record book shows that 263 people have been or are members of Rhodes Rebekah Lodge #362. At present the membership is 44 and the officers are:

Mrs. Charles (Ruth) Heishman	.. Noble Grand
Mrs. Adeline Torrey	 Vice Grand
Mrs. Donald (Doris) Smith	 Secretary
Mrs. Andy (Catherine) Vajgrt	 Treasurer

*Submitted by
Mrs. Adria Gibbs*



Installation Drill team of Rhodes Rebekah Lodge, 1967 to 1968. From the left, front row: Donna Gibbs, Doris Smith, Naida Garrison, Ruby Richeson, Mildred Paul and Violet Brittain; Second row: Isabelle Smith, Harriet Good, Zelda Janes, Adria Gibbs, Roberta Granger and Bertha Wiltsey.



J.C. Ewing, Post Office and Masonic Building

Eden Lodge #466

A dispensation to operate as a Masonic lodge was granted, November 7, 1884. The three principal officers were; C.E. Frost, Worshipful Master; J.A. Webster, Senior Warden; and Charles Curry, Junior Warden. There were thirteen other members.

On June 3, 1885 a charter was granted. The three principal officers remained the same and membership had grown to twenty-seven. The lodge paid seventy-five dollars rent for a hall to meet in.

Their dues were two dollars and some would pay in installments, and at times there was a penalty.

Their meetings were called for eight p.m. and lasted until ten-thirty, more often eleven or twelve. Visitors often came from Collins, Melbourne, State Center and Colo.

W.C. Heintz, one of the early members, was known as a great Masonic and orator and spread Masonry wherever he went. He made it his duty to attend all meetings on time, in spite of the long ride of three and one-half miles either by horseback or horse and buggy. Others would come five to seven miles.

On March 21, 1891, they purchased a building for one thousand dollars with a down payment of five hundred and two years to make the final payment.

June 4, 1935 was their fiftieth year.

Dues were raised to five dollars in November of 1936 and there was still a penalty of twenty-five cents. They voted fifty cents to the Sunshine Fund and one honest brother paid his bill of thirty-six cents.

They had electric lights by then and the average cost was a dollar and six cents per reading. A load of wood cost five dollars. Balance on hand on December 31, 1936 was twenty-one dollars and twenty-five cents, with a dividend at the Farmers Savings Bank of three dollars and thirty-three cents. The Eastern Star paid them fifteen dollars per year for rent.

Sometimes there would not be enough for a quorum, so no meetings were held for months.

The installations were held with the Eastern Star. Each family bringing in a big amount of food, all homemade. It took lots of work, for the fuel had to be carried upstairs from the bin beneath the stairway. All the water had to be carried in and out. The pump was located behind the building. It would be a late hour when the fires were put out from the two pot belly stoves and the lamps blown out.

Their attitude of loyalty left an impression on their younger ones, as there were several families with third generation becoming Master Mason's. They were, W.M. Gillman, Charles Jaroleman and Elwood Robinson.

Eden Lodge #466 at Rhodes, consolidated with Full Moon Lodge #561 at Melbourne on February 5, 1981.

There are two members still living from the early days, Frank Bentley and Wayne Hildreth. Frank resides with his wife Edna, at the Masonic Home in Perry, Iowa. He joined the lodge when he was twenty-one years old; raised in April of 1917, just before he went into the service during World War I. The lodge gave him a paper of several languages.

Wayne was younger and joined the Lodge after he came home from service. He resides in Rhodes.

*Submitted by
Allen Tribby*

The Princes of the Orient April 1897

"The Princes of the Orient," held their second meeting in the Opera House Tuesday night. Six new members were initiated. It was a rare treat and we advised everyone without regard to race, color, sex or previous condition of servitude, to join and come into the possession of the secret.

Order of Good Templars

This time honored institution of temperance was organized in 1859 and by its efficient labors has entirely banished whisky selling for miles around. Among its charter members, who bore the brunt of persecution in the good work, were Mr. F.T. Woolston, Mr. John Jaroleman, and lady, Charley Price, whose wife is one of the sweet singers of upper Eden and Mrs. Scotten, a very efficient officer in the order. But alas! The banners of the lodge trailed in the dust, and the enterprise is among the thing that were.

Eastern Star #11

The Eastern Star, Crystal Chapter No. 11 was instituted April 20, 1887 and constituted June 8, 1887. The charter members are, S.J. Cheshire, M.E. Gruber, E. Cunningham, Ida Harmon, Jennie Booth, C.E. Frost, J.A. Webster, Wilson Nason, J.C. Font, M.E. Webster, M.J. Watts, C.J. McDonald, E. Sturmer, L.W. Thomas, D.C. Cunningham, A.J. Thomas, D. Curry, Maggie Nason, C. Miller, Albert Cheshire, John Gruber, Tho. Watts and others.

The first Worthy Matron was Mrs. Jennie Cheshire and Worthy Patron was C.E. Frost, and the Chapter started with thirty members.

It was one of the early chapters in the state and served its purpose for many years in the Masonic Building. The building was located on North Main, on the west side of the street. A furniture store, drugstore, and post office was at one time located in the lower half of the building.

At one time there were bracket lamps, that lit up the chapter room, on each side and the front. They had to be filled with kerosene, the chimney's washed and coal or wood carried up from a bin under the outside stairway. Water had to be carried from the pump, halfway back on the lot, the refuse water and ashes from the two pot bellied stoves had to be carried back down the stairs. There was always a faithful member who would see to all the chores, never thinking she should be paid.

There was a covered stairway on the outside of the building, dark and rickety, but there was always someone at the top of the stairs with a lighted lantern, giving one the idea of the guiding light. One member had to give up attending meetings, as her husband was sure there would be a fire or the stairs would collapse. Yet they stood and served their purpose until the building was abandoned.

Each member took pride in their work and was faithful to their duties. It was a hardship to get to the meetings during the winter and spring, as the snow and cold was too much for the horses to stand. The mud would be so deep that the roads were impossible for a horse and buggy to travel.

The Conductresses with their staffs made marches and were very impressive in the smallest chapter room in the state. In the early thirties an associate patron was added to the corps. They found it a respective duty to make a fifty year member, with all honor due, a sister or brother in a very festive way. The initiation was made impressive, one special one was when a young lady was initiated by her parents, her grandmother, presiding, in the honored seat in the east. Her five aunts were exemplified the degrees and two other aunts conducted her thru the five points of the star. Her great grandparents and grandfather would have been proud to have taken part. There were several third generations affiliated with the chapter.

They observed their 50th anniversary in June of 1937. There was a Friendship meeting held in the Rhodes High School auditorium September 3, 1942.

The chapter surrendered its charter on December 5, 1967.

The two oldest living members to date are Amelia Bentley Buck and Ruth Tribby Wignall. Amelia joined the chapter in 1921 and now resides at Grandview Heights in Marshalltown. Ruth joined in 1923 and transferred to Central Chapter No. 67 in Marshalltown, where she now resides. She remained active until the last few years.

*Submitted by
Ruth Tribby Wignall*

Rathbone Sisters September 1896

Rhodes will soon have an organization of the "Rathbone Sisters." Nearly all of the ladies eligible are going in as charter members. The ladies of the order of the "Rathbone Sisters," served dinner and supper on election day at Rhodes, October 15, 1896.

Independent Order of Oddfellows The Three Link Fraternity

Oddfellowship is a brotherhood for the practice of Friendship, Love and Truth. The three links denote the good life for all. In the very early days a card carrying member of the Order was assured of help if he were overtaken by illness, unemployment or other misfortune. He could travel from place to place and by making himself known as an Oddfellow he would receive lodging and traveling expense or whatever assistance needed to procure employment.

The "Odd" in Oddfellows denotes the oddity of a group drawn together to help brothers in any kind of need. They were first known as the "Friendly Society". This group originated in England and when our forefathers came to the shores of America they misseced the fellowship. On April 26, 1819, a group of five met in Baltimore, Maryland, and formed the first lodge known as Washington Lodge #1. Oddfellowship flourished and by the year 1912 there were 17,961 different lodges with a membership of 1,623,198 with total receipts of \$16,297,962.22. This was only the Oddfellows, not the other branches of the fraternity. They built homes in all the states for their members and orphans in need. These are still maintained as well as low-cost housing for the elderly. There is one presently being built in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Mineral Lodge #519 of Rhodes was instituted January 30, 1891, and a charter granted October 22, 1891, with the following named persons as charter members: James Chapman, T.J. Flora, J.L. Goodwin, John Gruber and Charles G. Miller.

The Charter was surrendered December 20, 1939.

Rhodes Lodge #16 was reorganized in 1945 and at that time it was decided to purchase a building which is presently the Rebekah Lodge. The Rebekah's helped to pay for the building. Charter members at that time were: John A. Bear, Robert Brittain, LaVern Gardner, Claire E. Gibbs, Robert C. Gibbs, Keith Good, Kenneth Haas, Frank Kolbe, Donald Luing, Gerald Richeson, Martin Richeson, Robert E. Richeson, O.L. Sanders, John C. Tiffany, Earl R. Walker, Vernon White, Walter Wiltsey.

This Lodge was very active for many years. The members purchased a lodge home and with Rebekah's made it into a lovely meeting place. They organized a boys' club and supervised wrestling and pool and other activities for the young.

Changing life styles and work patterns have depleted the membership and on April 21, 1980, Rhodes Lodge #16 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows surrendered its charter.

Crystal Circle

As an outgrowth of the Order of the Eastern Star, a social organization was formed during the 1920's and was called the Social Circle. The object was to be sociability and to earn money for the benefit of the local chapter. Any person who was a member of the Eastern Star was eligible to be a member. The meetings were held once a month. The circle functioned continuously since it was organized but the name was later changed to O.E.S. Circle. After the chapter closed, in 1967, the name was changed again to the Crystal Circle. At the present time there are seventeen members and meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month for a dessert, lunch and cards.

*Submitted by
Fern Wignall*

Olden Days

Grant Six, Grant Motor Company of Rhodes, advertised the following; W.S. Nicholes touring car cost: \$1,095; Sedan cost: \$1,595; and Coupe cost: \$1,575.

Memories

On Main Street there was a drugstore, where I bought some of my school books and you could get the best ice cream cones. Above the drugstore, the Odd Fellows Lodge held their meetings, had oyster stew suppers and I sang for some of the programs.

Band concerts and movies were held every Saturday night. Agnes Buck taught me to play the piano and my two best friends were Hazel Ward and Ilma Ficken.

Mother and I came to town with a horse and buggy to trade eggs for groceries.

I have many memories of my school days like when our basketball team never won a game, but was considered fun and a good learning experience. My senior class play was held in the Community Hall. Our Superintendent C.E. Shutt asked us to give a quotation out of the Bible each morning.

I would ride horseback to school, leaving my horse in the back of Bentleys Garage. I also remember driving a Ford Touring car to school, when I hardly knew how to shift gears.

Violet Lentz and I went to Dr. Noble's for a smallpox shot, so we could skip school to visit the high school in State Center.

I graduated in 1926 and our family were members of the Rhodes Methodist Church. I have many fond memories of Rhodes.

*Submitted by
Lucia Johnson Moser*



1983 Centennial Plate