

# BLENDON LODGE

No. 339, F. & A. M. Westerville, Ohio



*120 Years*  
*1862-1982*

**120 YEARS OF  
FREEMASONRY IN WESTERVILLE, OHIO**

*A History of*  
**Blendon Lodge No. 339 F&AM**  
**1862 — 1982**

**with some accounting of  
Charity Lodge No. 53**

**Delaware Co. 1819 — 1842  
Westerville 1842 — 1844**

*Written by*  
**RW & Rev. Bro. Morris E. Allton  
and  
Rev. Bro. Millard J. Miller**

**1982**



**Temple of Blendon Lodge No. 339**

## THE WRITERS



**Morris E. Allton**

Morris E. Allton is a graduate of Otterbein College, Westerville, and of the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

Allton served four years in the Public Affairs Department of Otterbein College before joining the Public Affairs staff of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in 1948.

He spent 29 years with the Farm Bureau. For nine years he was a Vice President of the Federation. He lobbied for farmers' interests in the Ohio General Assembly and in the Congress of the United States.

He served two years as the Grand Chaplain of Ohio Masons (1971-72, 1973-74). He has spoken and written extensively on Masonic subjects.

Allton was raised a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge in 1947. He is a member of Horeb Chapter, Zabud Council, Columbus Valley of the Scottish Rite, Columbus Commandery No. 69, Aladdin Temple of the Shrine, and the Ohio Lodge of Research No. 10.



**Millard J. Miller**

Millard J. Miller is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa., and of the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. He taught history in high school following college graduation. He was Senior Minister at the Church of the Master United Methodist in Westerville for 22 years before being appointed a Conference Superintendent for six years. He retired in 1973.

Miller is a student of the Civil War. He has written many articles and a book on Civil War incidents and personalities. He also co-authored the booklet entitled *Westerville and Its Religious Heritage*.

He is past president of the Westerville Historical Society.

He is a member of Blendon Lodge, Horeb Chapter, and Zabud Council. He was raised a Master Mason in Equality Lodge No. 44, Martinsburg, W. Va. in 1940. He affiliated with Blendon Lodge in 1946.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The writers are indebted to the History Committee for its guidance and forbearance, and to those brothers of the Lodge who reviewed the writings and made helpful suggestions. Special thanks to Mrs. Charles Eichensehr who typed the manuscript before it was submitted to the printer, to J. Douglas Allton who did most of the photography, and to Mrs. Margaret Nourse who designed the paper bound cover.*

## PREFACE

This is the history of Symbolic Freemasonry in Westerville, Ohio, as it has been expressed and experienced over a period of considerably more than a century. Every Mason desires to know more about Masonry as a craft and his Lodge as an entity in his community. If he wishes to satisfy such a desire, he should undertake the researching and writing of his Lodge's history. He should examine all the records, scan all the pictures, and review the lives and experiences of those who made the history. He should discover what it is like to climb the mountains and to pick his way through the dark valleys of human experience. This is achieved as he strives to grasp and understand the experiences of those who have known the heights of joy and the depressions of frustration in their search for reality in human endeavor at its best — sometimes at its worst.

We appreciate the fact that Blendon Lodge No. 339 wanted a history of the Lodge written. We are especially grateful for the brothers of the Lodge who assisted in researching the minutes, some of them dimly written on faded pages; in responding to questions; in devising methods of procedure; and in implementing decisions until the history was completed.

Not everything has been told. If a favorite personality has not been mentioned or placed in proper perspective, charge it to lack of space or to the frailty of the writers properly stating what should have been said.

We were aided by those ahead of us who have written about Westerville and about our Lodges. Perhaps in the future, others will take our reflections and improve upon them. If that is done, we will have achieved a worthwhile goal.

We hope you learn from what you read and will create your own desire to delve more deeply into Freemasonry and its values. We also hope that your understanding of and respect for Blendon Lodge No. 339 will be enhanced.

The writers have used the titles and abbreviations common to Masonic writing. If they are not familiar to the reader, their translation may be found on page 76.

RW Bro Morris E. Allton  
Bro Millard J. Miller

## **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

The writing of this history was authorized by Blendon Lodge No. 339 at the request of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio.

A committee of the Lodge supervised the project and gave valuable assistance and technical counsel regarding the research, format, and general content of the book.

The committee was comprised of the following:

Bro. Charles Eichensehr—Chairman

W Bro. David Ballard

W Bro. Fred Wilson, PM

W Bro. Alan A. Norris, PM

Bro. L. William Steck

R W Bro. Morris E. Allton

Bro. Millard J. Miller



**Worshipful Master  
David Ballard**



**Most Worshipful Grand Master  
Vernon E. Musser  
1982 - 1983**



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## 1981 — 1982 OFFICERS

David M. Ballard.....	Worshipful Master
David M. Stufflebeam.....	Senior Warden
James R. Burgoon, PM.....	Junior Warden
William Cole, PM.....	Treasurer
W. Kendall Slack, PM.....	Secretary
Lewis Smith.....	Chaplain
Charles Eichensehr.....	Marshal
Robert Sims.....	Senior Deacon
Stanley Murphy.....	Junior Deacon
John Lyter.....	Senior Steward
James Michael Thompson.....	Junior Steward
Arthur Gorsuch, PM.....	Tyler
Lewis Smith.....	Lodge Education Officer
Garry Lee, PM.....	Organist
Ira Rawdon, PM.....	Public Relations
Harvey Napier, PM.....	Trustee
Delbert Kopp, PM.....	Trustee
John Kiner, PM.....	Trustee



Blendon Lodge Officers, standing (l. to r.): Lewis F. Smith, Chaplain & L.E.O.; John D. Lyter, Sr. Steward; W. Kendall Slack, P.M., Secretary; Delbert R. Kopp, P.M., Trustee; John D. Kiner, P.M., Trustee; Charles W. Eichensehr, Marshal. Seated (l. to r.): Robert D. Sims, Sr. Deacon; David M. Stufflebeam, Sr. Warden; David M. Ballard, Wor. Master; James R. Burgoon, P.M., Jr. Warden; Stanley H. Murphy, Jr. Deacon. Not in picture, Wm. E. Cole, P.M., Treasurer; James M. Thompson, Jr. Steward; Arthur J. Gorsuch, P.M., Tyler; Harvey L. Napier, P.M., Trustee.

DEDICATED  
to  
W Bro. Royal F. Martin, PM, LL.D.  
1887 — 1971



**Royal F. Martin**  
**Athletic Coach, Educator, Community Leader, Mason**

**A**  
**Master Mason**  
**1915 — 1971**

One who gave Blendon Lodge No. 339  
extraordinary leadership through the  
period of conceiving, planning and  
building the Temple.

Master of the Lodge 1930  
Chairman of the Building Committee  
1926 — 1932

## **WB ROYAL F. MARTIN PM, LL.D.**

**May 25, 1887 — June 29, 1971**

- Educator
- Administrator
- Community Leader
- Outstanding Mason

Born in Green Camp Township in Marion County, Ohio.

Graduate of Marion High School.

College Bachelor Degrees from Springfield, Mass. International YMCA Training School (1911), and Otterbein College (1914).

Coached all sports and taught physical education for both men and women students at Otterbein from 1913-1917.

Taught and coached at Marion High School 1917-1919 after which he returned to Otterbein as a professor and administrator in physical education.

Prior to retirement in 1957, Dr. Martin probably served in more college positions than any other person — positions ranging from professor to president of the college.

Bro. Martin earned his Master's Degree from Springfield College in 1935, and was honored with the LL.D. Degree from Otterbein in 1951.

Bro. Martin married Goldia Ferne Gelbaugh of Marion in 1911. They had one son Dr. Donald Ray Martin who is a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas.

Bro. Martin served as president of the Ohio Physical Education Association, and for many years was president of the Ohio Athletic Conference. He also served as chairman of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee of the Ohio Collegiate Association.

In addition to his service to various agencies and organizations in Westerville and Franklin County, he devoted much time in service to the Church of the Master United Methodist.

Bro. Martin was an outstanding Mason. Raised a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge in 1915, his greatest service was the leadership he exerted over a thirty year period of building and financing the Westerville Masonic Temple. He was chairman of the Temple Building Committee from 1926-1932. He then remained effective as a member of the Temple Board until 1971.

On May 9, 1970, Dr. Martin's last Masonic recognition while living was that of receiving a plaque from the Lodge naming him "Mr. Mason of Westerville."

Masons are indebted to WBro. Royal F. Martin for the beautiful Masonic Temple through which Masonry has served Westerville for 50 years. His leadership made the Temple a reality.

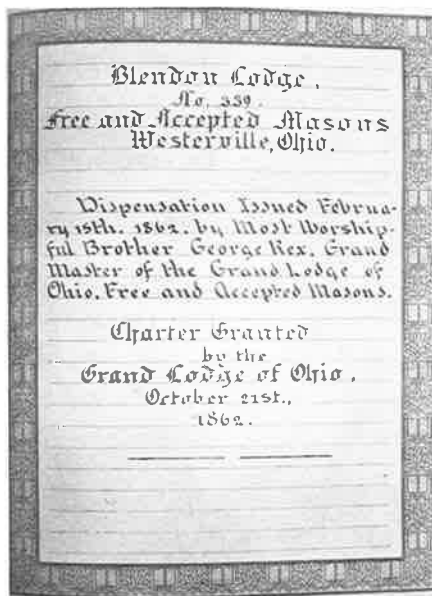
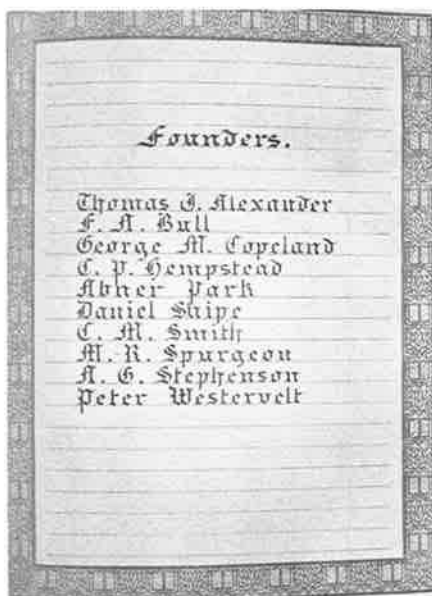
## **MASONIC RECORD OF WB R. F. MARTIN**

### **1915 — 1971**

- Raised a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge, 1915
- Worshipful Master of Blendon Lodge, 1930  
Awarded 50 year pin, 1965
- Horeb Chapter No. 3 RAM  
High Priest, 1926  
Awarded 50 year pin
- Zabud Council No. 99 R&SM  
Ill. Master, 1924  
Awarded 50 year pin
- 32° Scottish Rite, Valley of Columbus  
Presided over the 9th Degree
- Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 1
- Mispah Chapter No. 38 OES  
Past Patron twice

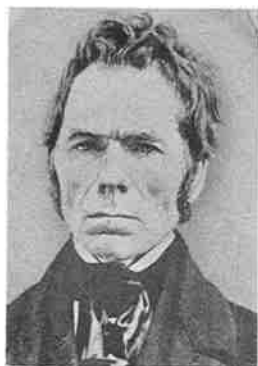
# **BLENDON LODGE NO. 339** **CHARTER MEMBERS** **and** **FIRST OFFICERS**

George M. Copeland .....	Worshipful Master
F. A. Bull.....	Senior Warden
A. A. Stevenson .....	Junior Warden
Peter Westervelt .....	Treasurer
Thomas J. Alexander .....	Secretary
Daniel Shipe.....	Senior Deacon
M. R. Spurgeon .....	Junior Deacon
Abner Parke .....	Tyler
C. P. Hempstead, C. W. Smith	



**From the Altar Bible**  
**Charter Members of**  
**Blendon Lodge No. 339**

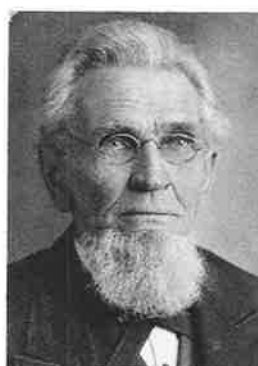
# Past Masters



G. M. Copeland  
1862



F. A. Bull  
1863-66, 68, 69, 76



T. J. Alexander  
1867-70



T. Jones  
1871



S. Timmons  
1872, 73



H. T. Sibel  
1874, 75, 83, 87-89



E. Weibling  
1877, 78, 84



W. Y. Bartels  
1879



G. W. Clark  
1880





W. E. Copeland  
1881



D. W. Coble  
1882



W. T. Taylor  
1885, 86



J. Riggle  
1890



E. J. Smith  
1891, 92, 94, 95, 98



N. H. Riggle  
1893



J. S. LeHew  
1896



L. R. Seeley  
1897



W. E. Hempstead  
1899



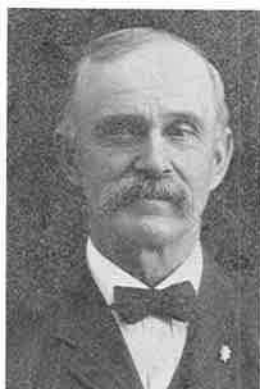
E. E. Biddle  
1900



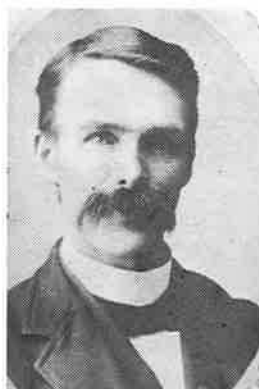
O. B. Cornell  
1901, 02



P. P. Ingalls  
1903



W. R. Cockrell  
1904



H. H. Lawrence  
1905



W. M. Gantz  
1906



C. L. Brundage  
1907



W. I. Taggart  
1908



E. Horlocker  
1909



S. J. Kiehl  
1910



L. E. Whitehead  
1911



A. R. Schwarz  
1912



E. D. Needham  
1913



D. C. Lawson  
1914



J. P. West  
1915



R. R. Walcutt  
1916



C. W. Stoughton  
1917



W. O. Lambert  
1918



R. W. Smith  
1919



E. M. Ricketts  
1920



C. E. Watts  
1921



E. W. E. Schear  
1922



H. M. Gray  
1923



E. P. Durrant  
1924



C. M. Stockdale  
1925



F. G. McLeod  
1926



S. J. Fickel  
1927



Blaine DeWolfe  
1928



N. B. Smith  
1929



R. F. Martin  
1930



B. W. Coate  
1931



D. R. Parks  
1932



B. W. Valentine  
1933



A. R. Spessard  
1934



H. W. Elliott  
1935



J. E. Morris  
1936



J. H. Larimore  
1937



M. W. Baker  
1938



J. O. Phillips  
1939



R. L. Cornet  
1940



W. G. Elliott  
1941



J. H. McCloy  
1942



C. O. Altman  
1943



C. F. Williams  
1944



F. H. Jacobs  
1945



E. A. Walker  
1946



E. H. Gould  
1947



J. H. Hartsook  
1948



A. J. Gorsuch  
1949



J. C. Robertson  
1950



C. R. Huhn  
1951



C. H. Cooper  
1952



R. W. Elliott  
1953



L. D. Clapham  
1954



C. L. Stockton  
1955



F. H. Kelling  
1956



G. C. Heitz  
1957



R. H. Fields  
1958



W. E. Redding  
1959



F. T. Williams  
1960



W. K. Slack  
1961



Wm. E. Cole  
1962



G. C. Seidler  
1963





E. L. Bibler  
1964



Ronald F. Johnson  
1965, 1967



Alan E. Norris  
1966



Frank T. Turner, Jr.  
1968



Gene E. Sours  
1969, 1979



Garry B. Lee  
1970



Marvin B. Miesse  
1971



James R. Burgoon  
1972



Charles P. Sizer  
1973



John R. Conley  
1974



Jack S. Cook  
1975



Fred A. Wilson  
1976



Ira Rawdon  
1977



Harvey L. Napier  
1978



Chester Weil  
1979



Delbert Kopp  
1980



John Kiner  
1981

**HONORARY MEMBERS  
OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL  
From Blendon Lodge No. 339**

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, for the Northern Masonic  
Jurisdiction of the United States of America

	Coronated
*Ill. Roscoe Raymond Walcutt, 33° .....	Sept. 23, 1936
*Ill. Ralph W. Smith, 33° .....	Sept. 26, 1946
*Ill. Roy A. Burkhart, 33° .....	Sept. 28, 1949
*Ill. Horace William Troop, 33° .....	Sept. 23, 1959
*Ill. James Otterbein Phillips, 33° .....	Sept. 29, 1965
*Ill. George Calvin Heitz, 33° .....	Sept. 27, 1972
Ill. Howard W. Van Horn, 33° .....	Sept. 28, 1977
Ill. Frederick T. Williams, 33° .....	Sept. 29, 1982

**KNIGHTS OF THE YORK CROSS OF HONOR  
OHIO PRIORY NO. 18**

**From Blendon Lodge No. 339**

WB Emmett Bibler, 1972

WB Garry Lee, 1979

**OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF F&AM OF OHIO  
From Blendon Lodge No. 339**

GRAND CHAPLAIN

RW and Rev. Morris E. Allton, 1971-72, 1973-74

ASSOCIATE GRAND CHAPLAIN

RW and Rev. Morris E. Allton, 1974-

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS  
OF THE 14th MASONIC DISTRICT

\*RW L. R. Seely, 1898-99

\*RW Otto B. Cornell, 1909-10

RW Frederick T. Williams, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64

RW Gene Sours, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77

DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICERS  
OF THE 14th MASONIC DISTRICT

RW Gene Sours, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74

## **GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS**

### **From Blendon Lodge No. 339**

\*Lester E. Whitehead

Ex. Gr. Gd. of the Grand Chapter of RAM of Ohio, 1946-47

\*Roscoe R. Walcutt

MEGHP of the Grand Chapter of RAM of Ohio, 1934-35

Gen. Gr. Sec'y, of the Gen. Gr. Chapter, 1941-61

Frederick T. Williams

District Deputy Grand High Priest, of the Capitular Dist. 1968-1976

Grand Master of the First Veil, 1977-78

Grand Master of the Second Veil, 1978-79

Grand Master of the Third Veil, 1979-80

Grand Royal Arch Captain, 1980-81

Grand Principal Sojourner 1981-82

Charles Campbell

District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 11th Capitular District,  
1978-82

\*Ill. Ralph W. Smith

Grand Sec'y. of the Gr. Chapter of RAM of Ohio, 1957-61

## **GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS**

### **From Blendon Lodge No. 339**

\*Otto B. Cornell

Grand Master of the Grand Council of R&SM of Ohio, 1919-20

\*Ill. Roscoe R. Walcutt

Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of R&SM of Ohio, 1940-61

## **SCOTTISH RITE OFFICERS**

### **From Blendon Lodge NO. 339**

\*Ill. Roscoe R. Walcutt, 33°

Commander-in-Chief of the Scioto Consistory, 1954-57

\*Ill. Horace W. Troop, Sr., 33°

Commander-in-Chief of the Scioto Consistory, 1972-75

\*Ill. Ralph W. Smith, 33°

Most Wise Master of Rose Croix, 1951-54

Ill. Frederick T. Williams, 33°

First Lieut. Commander of the Scioto Consistory, 1981-84

James R. Burgoon

Engineer and Seneschal, 1981-84

\* Deceased

**GRAND MASTERS AND PAST GRAND MASTERS  
OF THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO  
WHO HAVE VISITED BLENDON LODGE NO. 339**

- PGM William B. Thrall  
Presented the Lodge its Charter, 11-3-1862
- GM Thomas Sparrow  
Installed the Lodge officers, 1-7-1867
- PGM Thomas Sparrow  
Dedicated the Lodge hall in the Guitner Building, 9-11-1868
- GM William Moore Cunningham  
Installed the Lodge officers, 1-6-1879
- PGM Charles Kiefer  
Installed the Lodge officers, 1-7-1895
- GM Edwin S. Griffith  
Visitation and reception, 5-13-1913
- GM Charles J. Pretzman  
Annual Inspection, 3-2-1914
- PGM Charles J. Pretzman  
Installed the Lodge officers, 12-5-1917  
Addressed the Lodge on "Law Observance As Applicable to  
Masonry", 6-20-1927  
Participated in the cornerstone laying of the Temple, 2-22-1930
- GM John R. Flotron  
To investigate a grievance, 1-3-1921  
Spoke on a Building Fund amendment to the by-laws, 10-3-1921
- PGM Earl Stewart  
Installed the officers of the Lodge, 11-18-1929
- GM James W. Morgan  
Installed officers and addressed the Lodge, 11-18-1929
- GM Simeon Nash  
Dedicated the Temple, 10-30-1932  
Annual Inspection, 2-6-1933
- PGM Simeon Nash  
Installed the officers of the Lodge, 12-4-1933
- GM Carl Weir Ellenwood  
Annual Inspection, 4-29-1935
- GM Louis B. Blakemore  
Diamond Anniversary of the Lodge, 11-3-1937
- PGM Samuel H. Squire  
Diamond Anniversary of the Lodge, 11-3-1937
- GM Harry Meyer  
Reception for the MWGM who spoke of the values of the  
Ohio Masonic Home, 1-16-1939

- GM Dillion Crist
  - Spoke on the subject "Masonry Must Go Forward", 5-6-1940
- GM Charles R. Wilson
  - Reception for the MWGM, 5-15-1941
- GM Daniel C. Jenkins
  - Centennial Year of Blendon Lodge No. 339 and of Reynoldsburg Lodge No. 340, 3-29-1962
- GM Ralph M. Francisco
  - Centennial Anniversary of the Lodge, 10-29-1962
- PGM Andrew J. White Jr.
  - Centennial Anniversary of the Lodge, 10-29-1962
- PGM Edgar L. Ott
  - Spoke on "The History of Scottish Rite", 4-20-1970
  - Reception for Ill. Bro. Howard Van Horn, 10-30-1978
- GM Fay L. Gullion
  - Reception for RWB the Rev. Morris E. Allton, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, 4-3-1972
- GM Royal C. Scofield
  - Visitation of the Lodge, 10-25-1973
- PGM Fay L. Gullion
  - Visitation of the MWGM Royal C. Scofield, 10-25-1973
  - Recognition program for the RW Gr. Chaplain Bro. Morris E. Allton, 6-16-1974
- PGM Robert A. Hinshaw
  - Blendon Lodge presented the Minute Book of Charity Lodge No. 53 to the Grand Lodge of Ohio, 6-17-1974

## PART I

### THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

History, with its dates and facts, must be told; but it cannot capture the grand search which has held Freemasonry together through the years. The honest historian must say that Freemasonry arose among the builders of the great cathedrals of the Middle Ages because that is as far back as written records go. Yet men of learning have offered other experiences and legends concerning the origin which must contain some truth. Here are a few of them:

1. The story of Masonry is the history of the human race, beginning with the Garden of Eden.
2. Masonry is the successor of the ancient mysteries of the Orient.
3. The Temple of Solomon, built 1,000 years B.C., was its cradle.
4. The Crusaders and their Knights Templar carried it forward.

As would be expected, the ancient builders had their trade secrets which they guarded zealously and passed only to their worthy successors. When the "operating" craftsmen no longer had work to do, the "speculative" craftsmen continued to pass on the traditional secrets. These secrets became formalized into initiating rites. They had meaning for the members, but aroused criticism and superstition from the outside world.

Let it be made clear that what secrecy there is in Masonry, does not extend to its principles, purposes and ideals. The membership rolls of the various Lodges are known. Their halls or places of meeting are publicly announced. The members often wear colorful regalia in public appearances. The Masonic constitution is published and may be read by any interested person. For American Lodges, the Holy Bible and the American Flag always adorn the Lodge where stated meetings are held. So in reality the term "secret society" should not be applied to Freemasonry.

An element of mystery has always been fascinating. What lies beyond the mountain? across the sea? above the stars? What is the real secret of life? What lies beyond the grave? Masonry tries to unlock the door to some of these great eternal secrets.

Freemasonry, following the practice of all great teachers, throws a wall of mystery about its Temples. There the great light of Truth from the "Grand Architect of the Universe" lures members on a quest.

The privileges of Masonry are not bestowed indiscriminately. Being too familiar they would lose their attractiveness. Masonry dramatically robes Truth in many colors and lets it break through gradually — by degrees.

It has been said that the spell of Freemasonry is threefold:

1. The lure of a long and honored tradition,
2. The tonic of fellowship as a compelling reason for Masonic loyalty,
3. The unifying purpose of building men and of helping a brother in need.

The search for meaning has led more than a thousand men to be raised as Master Masons in Blendon Lodge. Hundreds of others who were raised elsewhere have affiliated with Blendon Lodge after moving to Westerville.

Blendon Lodge is part of a great fellowship of Masons throughout Ohio, which is the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of F&AM of Ohio. This fellowship of mystic ties encompasses 680 lodges with a combined membership of more than 233,000 Masons — the largest jurisdiction of Masons in the world except for that of England. In the United States, this search for more light is evidenced in every state with a total of more than 3,250,000 Masons throughout the country. Add to the number of Masons in the United States of America, another membership equal to it, and we approximate the number of Freemasons throughout the world.

By letting the lights of Masonry shine — in ourselves; our lodges; our communities, nation, and the world — we can make a great difference in establishing and maintaining the quality and equality of good living.

## PART II

### CHARITY LODGE NO. 53

#### 1819 — 1844

One cannot relate the history of Freemasonry in Westerville without giving attention to Charity Lodge No. 53. Charity Lodge existed but a short time in Westerville. However, it provided some fine leadership which helped to establish Blendon Lodge No. 339. This was true even though Charity Lodge had been out of the picture nearly twenty years before Blendon Lodge's Dispensation was issued.

Charity Lodge was first formed at Sunbury in Delaware County in 1819. It moved to Zoar (Galena) in 1826 and had a short history in Westerville to which it moved in 1842.

In Westerville, the Lodge met in the second story of the Blendon Township School which stood at about 260 South State Street, near where the Armory is now located. The building was removed in 1875 and later was destroyed.

In 1859, a select committee of the Grand Lodge of Ohio reported taking possession of the "Jewels, property and effects of Charity Lodge No. 53 at Westerville." These consisted of "the Charter, dated December 12, 1821; the book of records, extending from June 9, 1819, to October 7, 1840; so many of the Jewels as can now be found, together with sundry implements of the craft." The report noted, "On these records are inscribed the names of the brethren once beloved and familiar to our craft...now, alas, fading from the frail tablet of human memories! They now rest from their labors, and a blank now takes the place upon our scroll, once occupied by Charity Lodge No. 53."



The report of Charity Lodge's demise was made by the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master William B. Thrall, who later was directed by the MWG Mas. George Rex to deliver a Charter to Blendon Lodge No. 339.

Charity Lodge began operating under a Dispensation granted by the MWG Mas. John Snow on June 9, 1819. Eight Charter members who filled positions as officers of the Lodge are:

Roswell R. Chapman.....Wor. Master	William Gamble.....Jr. Deacon
Eleazer Copeland.....Sr. Warden	Roger Hill.....Treasurer
Jabez P. Manning.....Jr. Warden	Lawrence Myers.....Secretary
Addison Carver.....Sr. Deacon	Lyman Whitney.....Tyler

Blendon Lodge has a list of 93 Master Masons who became members for Charity Lodge from the time of its beginning in 1819 until its last report in 1842. There may have been other members whose names have not been preserved.

In 1840 there were 30 members of Charity Lodge. There were 13 other Masons living in its jurisdiction who were members of Lodges elsewhere.

Economically times were hard throughout the existence of Charity Lodge. The Lodge for a few years received produce in lieu of cash for fees. Members paid 6¼¢ per meeting to meet expenses. Several brothers were granted charity gifts to help them and their families.

Unfortunately Charity Lodge was born early in the period of the Morgan Incident and the anti-Masonic movement. Masons were labeled as undemocratic and religious barbarians. Early travel conditions and the absence of what we accept as minimum standards of accommodations made getting to meetings difficult and uncomfortable.

The anti-Masonic problems created animosities between Lodges and churches and even among members of families. The height of these problems was during the time Charity Lodge was trying to become established and grow. During the same period many Lodges over the state either were abandoned or went into a state of suspended animation for a period of years.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio's history, entitled "**Frontier Cornerstones**," states the situation quite succinctly: "The examples of Masonic persecution are endless. During the anti-Masonic craze, one hundred-one Lodges were on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Ohio at the beginning of the infamy. Only 17 Lodges remained steadfast throughout the period." (p. 74)

In 1832 only 35 Lodges were represented at the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the Senior Grand Warden were absent. In 1834 only 30 of the 101 Lodges sent representatives to the Grand Communication. From the year 1830 to 1837 only three new Lodges were Chartered in Ohio.

This was the atmosphere in which Charity Lodge No. 53 struggled and finally ceased to struggle, surrendering its Charter to the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1844. There is no record of Charity Lodge work after the move to Westerville in 1842.

Thus the lights were extinguished for a Lodge that made Masonry available to men who needed its light during trying days. Several of its members persevered through other Lodges, thus making contributions to their communities and to the craft.

One of its earliest members, the Rev. Ebenezer Washburn, moved from Sunbury to what is now Central College in Blendon Township. There he was an outstanding preacher and an able leader in the Presbyterian Church. His emphasis on education, including higher education, led to the establishment of Central College as an institution of higher learning.

Another member of Charity Lodge was the Rev. J. T. Donahoo. He was affiliated with New England Lodge No. 4 in 1841, 1842 and 1843. He then affiliated with Columbus Lodge No. 30. The Rev. Bro. Donahoo served the Grand Lodge of Ohio as its Grand Chaplain pro tem in 1851.

Brothers George Copeland, Peter Westervelt, Abner Parke and C. P. Hempstead exerted leadership in Blendon Lodge No. 339 when it was organized nearly twenty years after the demise of Charity Lodge.

### **PART III**

## **FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

### **BLENDON LODGE NO. 339**

### **1862 — 1875**

The Lights of Masonry were not evidenced in Westerville from 1844, when Charity Lodge No. 53 surrendered its Charter, until February 15, 1862. On that date a Dispensation was issued by the MWG Mas. George Rex and was delivered to a group of ten valiant men, who with purpose and experience were dedicated to establishing a new Masonic Lodge in Westerville.

New England Lodge No. 4 in Worthington had long enjoyed a good relationship with Westerville Masonic interests. This was most helpful when Worshipful Brother George Taylor of that Lodge sparked a revival of interest here. With many evidences of brotherly love and concern, he helped to establish Blendon Lodge No. 339 which was Chartered October 21, 1862, after eight months of Dispensation.

Even though our nation was in the second year of the Civil War, when the youth of our community were marching to the beats of far away drummers, a Lodge was formed by those with a determination to see it succeed.

It was a most unusual time when Blendon Lodge received its Dispensation. Anti-Masonic feelings were still taking their toll. The Civil War was not going well for the North. Abraham Lincoln had been elected President of the United States in 1860 after a bitter campaign which divided our nation. Lincoln polled 1,860,000 popular votes against 2,180,000 cast for three candidates who ran against him. Most of the people of Westerville belonged to the newly organized Republican Party and voted for Lincoln.

Lucinda Cornell, a Westerville citizen who kept a diary from 1855 to 1911, wrote that she went to the State House in Columbus to hear President Lincoln speak and that she shook hands with him.

Before Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated, seven southern states seceded from the Union and the Confederate States of America was organized. On April 12, 1861, the walls of Ft. Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina were reduced by Confederate bombardment and the Civil War was on. President Lincoln immediately called for 75,000 volunteers to enlist for ninety days to preserve the Union.

On August 12, 1862, 27 men from Blendon Township and five or six from Otterbein College joined the 95th Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The people of the village cheered them as they rode off to Columbus. Of these 33 men, six were killed in action, two died of disease, six were wounded and four were imprisoned. Before the war ended, 300 men served from Blendon Township.

What was Westerville like during the difficult days when the Lodge was organized? According to the U.S. Census of 1860 the population was 668. Otterbein College had been established in 1847, in 1862 it had an enrollment of 267. The town had been incorporated on July 19, 1856, with John Haywood, professor of Mathematics at Otterbein, its first mayor. One of the first ordinances adopted prohibited horse racing and reckless speeding on the streets. An ordinance of 1859 prohibited citizens "to give, sell, barter, or in any way dispose of...wine, fermented cider, ale, porter, lager beer or any spirituous liquors."

In 1853 a plank road was built from four miles north of Columbus through Westerville to the north of town. Mud seeped through the planks on State Street making it a quagmire during the winter months. Toll gates were located at the south edge of town. A "hack" carried mail and passengers to and from Columbus every other day. There were no street lights, no paved streets or sidewalks.

Most of the places of business were strung along State Street. The Avenue, later named College Avenue, ran two blocks west of State Street to the college. A foundry, located at the corner of College Avenue and Knox Street, owned by Wor. Bro. Thomas J. Alexander, made shovels and rakes. A steam saw and a flour mill were operated at the corner of State and Plum Streets. Bro. T. Jones had a general store at the corner of State Street and College Avenue. Two shoe shops, a blacksmith and carriage shop, a tavern and inn, several barber shops, and a drug store comprised most of the business activity. It was not uncommon to see cows tethered to fences, peacefully grazing along the unpaved streets.

For recreation the women attended quilting bees and tea parties. The men lounged around in the stores or went hunting and fishing. The three churches, Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Brethren, provided a variety of activities attended by most of the citizens.

While Westerville in the 1860s may seem to be archaic or ancient to us, it was probably typical of most small villages of the era. Perhaps the college students added a little more color and a few pranks to make Westerville a little more lively than most towns. The college enrollment dropped dramatically during the war, going from 267 in 1860 to 124 in 1861.

In February 1862, from the fading pages of the first Lodge minutes we glean these words: "The petitioners for Blendon Lodge of Westerville, Ohio, met at the Lodge room at 6:00 P.M. on the 24th day of February A.L. 5862, A.D. 1862, and organized by appointing M. R. Spurgeon chairman and Thos. J. Alexander Secy." The Lodge room was located on the second floor of the building on the northwest corner of State and Main Streets. The hall was rented from Mr. Watters for three dollars per month.

The Dispensation was read by the secretary as follows:

To all to whom these presents may come greetings:

Know ye, that whereas a petition has been presented to me signed by the following named Brethren to wit:—George M. Copeland, F. A. Bull, T. J. Alexander, A. G. Stevenson, C. W. Smith, Peter Westervelt, Daniel Shipe, Abner Parke, C. P. Hempstead and M. R. Spurgeon praying to be congregated into a regular Lodge in the town of Westerville, County of Franklin and State of Ohio, and promising obedience to the Ancient usages and Landmarks of the Fraternity and Laws of the Grand Lodge, and whereas said petitioners have been recommended to me as Master Masons in good standing by the Master, Wardens, and members of New England Lodge No. 4 under our jurisdiction and having also obtained the consent of all other Lodges whose territorial jurisdictions will be affected by the establishment of said new Lodge.

Therefore, I, George Rex, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, reposing full confidence in the recommendations aforesaid, and finding that the petitioners have strictly conformed to the laws and rules of the Grand Lodge by virtue of the authority vested in me do hereby grant this my Dispensation, empowering and authorizing our trusted and well beloved brethren aforesaid to form and open a Lodge after the manner of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons to be called Blendon Lodge and therein to admit and make Freemasons according to the Ancient Custom and not otherwise.

This Dispensation is to continue in full force until the next Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge aforesaid to be holden at the City of Columbus on the 21st day of October, 1862, unless sooner revoked by me, and I do hereby appoint

Brother G. M. Copeland to be the 1st Wor. Master

Brother F. A. Bull to be the 1st Sr. Warden

Brother A. A. Stevenson to be the 1st Jr. Warden of the said new Lodge and it shall be their duty, and they are hereby required to return this Dispensation with all the proceedings had under the authority of the same together with an attached copy of their by-laws to our Grand Lodge aforesaid at the expiration of the time herein specified for examination and such other action in the premises as shall be deemed wise and proper.

Given by my hand and private seal at Wooster, Ohio, this 15th day of February A.L. 5862—A.D. 1862.

George Rex, MWG Master of Masons in Ohio.

On request of WBro. Geo. M. Copeland, the Master named in the warrant, Bro. George Taylor, Past Master of New England Lodge No. 4, took the East, appointed the acting officers pro tem and opened the Lodge of Master Masons in due form. After making some appropriate remarks he directed the officers named in the warrant to take their respective stations and proceed with business.

The Worshipful Master appointed:

Brother Peter Westervelt.....Treasurer  
Brother Thos. J. Alexander.....Secretary  
Brother Daniel Shipe.....Sr. Deacon  
Brother M. R. Spurgeon.....Jr. Deacon  
Brother Abner Parke.....Tyler

On motion of Bro. C. P. Hempstead, it was resolved that a committee of three be appointed to procure the necessary articles and fixtures for the Lodge. Brothers F. A. Bull, M. R. Spurgeon and C. W. Smith were appointed as the committee.

Thanks were extended to Bro. Geo. Taylor of New England Lodge No. 4 "for his liberal assistance in our effort to establish a Lodge."

The adopted by-laws of Blendon Lodge contained sixteen articles. The membership fees were set at \$20—\$10 for Entered Apprentice, \$5 for Fellowcraft, and \$5 for Master Mason Degrees. Two dollars per year were the dues.

The first petition and \$10 for the Entered Apprentice Degree was presented by T. Jones who was recommended by Brothers C. W. Smith and Thos. J. Alexander. He was cleared and initiated an Entered Apprentice in due form on March 7, 1862.

On June 2, 1862, Blendon Lodge received a petition from S. R. Taylor enclosing \$10. He was recommended by Brothers A. A. Stevenson and Thos. J. Alexander. The petition was accompanied by a resolution from New England Lodge No. 4 which read as follows:

**Whereas it must be apparent to the members of New England Lodge No. 4 that the rejection of Mr. S. R. Taylor originated from trifling, capitious, sinister and unworthy motives in those who so wontonly arrested the legitimate work of the Lodge;**

**And whereas for such unwarranted acts of a few members a person who is worthy ought not be deprived of the rights and privileges of Masonry;**

**Resolved:**

**That New England Lodge No. 4 of Free and Accepted Masons with a free and hearty consent to any Lodge to receive and entertain a petition from S. R. Taylor in case they find him worthy.**

**New England Lodge No. 4**

S. R. Taylor was found worthy, cleared and in due time was raised a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge on July 21, 1862.

The first evidence of a Civil War soldier petitioning Blendon Lodge was August 18, 1862. He was Levi Smith who was raised without any necessary delays because he had "orders to march." He was raised a Master

Mason September 1, 1862. The Grand Lodge of Ohio took exception to the haste of electing, passing and raising Levi Smith. The Lodge promised never to do it again. "In Masonry there are no emergencies" was the position of the Grand Lodge.

A Charter was granted Blendon Lodge on October 21, 1862. It became the 339th Lodge in the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Blendon Lodge was one of 22 Lodges chartered in Ohio during the Civil War years of 1861-1865.

At a stated communication November 3, 1862, the Past Grand Master Wm. B. Thrall, serving as proxy of the MW Grand Master George Rex, obligated the officers of Blendon Lodge. He officially presented the Lodge with its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment and the Blendon Lodge officers were publicly installed under the new Charter. In October 1864 the Charter was framed at a cost of \$5.

The Tyler of the Lodge was responsible for keeping the Lodge hall in proper condition. He was to keep it swept, dusted, lights operating and the spittoons cleaned.

At times the Lodge tried unsuccessfully to prohibit the use of tobacco in the hall. In 1867, however, the members voted to fine any brother 50 cents for spitting on the floor or throwing quids of tobacco on the floor or in the spittoons.

In December 1862 the Lodge voted to pay the Tyler 40 cents per night. In March 1863 this payment was dropped to 25 cents per night. In 1867 the Tyler was paid one dollar per night.

In order to curtail expenses, the Lodge, in June 1869, agreed to have the brothers take turns in filling the office of Tyler. This lasted for four months when Bro. Ranney was agreed upon as a full-time Tyler.

One Tyler, Bro. Fred Spring, was accused of appearing in the Lodge room at various times in a state of intoxication, of deserting his place as Tyler and of leaving the approach to the Lodge unguarded. Bro. Spring begged forgiveness of the Lodge. Upon motion of a Past Master of the Lodge, the charges against him were dropped. A good Tyler, who would perform the duties required of him, apparently was hard to find.

In August 1863 a subscription was taken and \$23 were subscribed for Jewels, Collars and Carpet. The secretary was directed to correspond with the Grand Treasurer in regard to second hand Jewelry. It was resolved to procure German Silver Jewels.

The Civil War had many kinds of effects on the Lodge. The minutes of July 1, 1863, record, "There was no meeting in consequence of the Call of the Militia by the Governor, against the Morgan Raid."

The Lodge proceeded slowly but grew steadily during the Civil War years. Each year new petitions were received, candidates were entered, passed, and raised as Master Masons.

August 4, 1864, C. W. Smith, Sr. Warden of the Lodge, was buried. He was a casualty of the war.

There were a number of evidences of hardship among members and their families which were the result of the war and attendant economic conditions. The Lodge made charity gifts to some families. The general trend of the Lodge was upward in leadership and stability even though it lost members to military service. Some members, also, moved from Westerville to other communities.

There were some jurisdictional disputes. These happened when a Lodge accepted a petition from a prospective member whom another Lodge believed resided in its territory. The most notable such infraction of Masonic etiquette arose between Blendon Lodge No. 339 and Center Lodge No. 89 at Johnstown in Licking County. After much debate and even protests to the Grand Lodge, the matter must have been settled "out of court" for the minutes do not define the outcome except to say that Blendon Lodge "agreed to accept \$20 from Johnstown for territorial infringement."

The first visitation of a Grand Master to Blendon Lodge occurred when the MWGM Bro. Thomas Sparrow duly installed the new officers of the Lodge on January 7, 1867. The Lodge adjourned to the Presbyterian Church for the Grand Master's address and public installation. This was followed by a "bountiful supper provided for all persons at the Lodge room."

The first Masonic trial for unmasonic conduct was initiated April 1, 1867, and was resolved on June 17 of that year. A brother of the Lodge was accused of keeping a woman of suspicious character at his house contrary to the wishes of his family and of the members of the Lodge. After investigation and trial by the Lodge, the brother was indefinitely suspended. He was reinstated in good standing in the Lodge in June 1869.

By 1867 Blendon Lodge had grown to a total of 40 members. It sought to secure better accommodations by relocating. In September of that year, the Lodge approved moving to the second floor of the P. E. Guitner building at the southwest corner of State Street and College Avenue. The new location was leased for five years at a cost of \$100 per year. P. E. Guitner was a merchant, tailor and dealer in dry goods, clothing and shoes.

In April 1868 a new stove was purchased at a cost of \$39.50. The following month, the Lodge authorized placing "a marble slab with square and compass carved thereon in front of the hall." Guitner hall was dedicated September 11, 1868, by the Past Grand Master Thomas Sparrow.

WB F. A. Bull, who was serving his sixth year as the Wor. Master of the Lodge, was charged with unmasonic conduct on February 1, 1869. The charges were brought by Blendon Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The Grand Lodge suspended Bro. Bull as the Wor. Master. The Sr. Warden Thomas J. Alexander was appointed as the Wor. Master until otherwise directed by the Grand Master. The Grand Lodge then charged Blendon Lodge with the responsibility of handling the matter. Charges were investigated and later dropped with Bro. Bull remaining in good standing in the Lodge. Evidence of his acceptance by the brethren is the fact he was elected the Wor. Master for the seventh year in 1876. His seven year tenure as Wor. Master is the longest in the history of Blendon Lodge.

In May 1869 Bro. Peter Westervelt was tendered "Life Membership" in Blendon Lodge in consideration of his long years of devotion to Masonry. In August of that year the brethren of several Lodges gathered for the funeral service of this devoted and revered Mason.

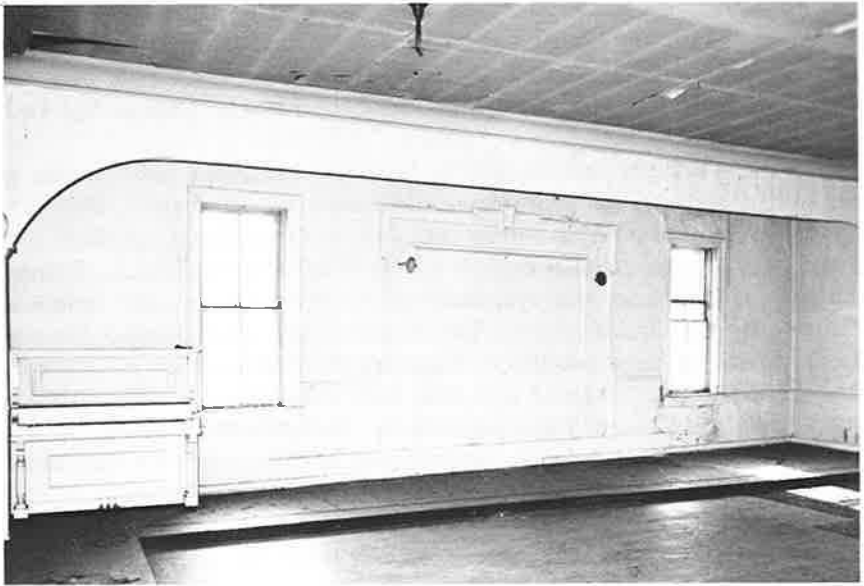
The first Masonic funeral service, conducted March 10, 1870, with much ceremony, was for Bro. C. P. Hempstead, a charter member of Blendon Lodge. Wor. Bro. Thomas J. Alexander was then the Master of the Lodge. Bro. Hemstead had been a teacher and township clerk along with his many years of service to Charity and Blendon Lodges.

A Committee was appointed in June 1871 to explore possibilities of building a new Lodge room. In November another committee was appointed to find a new Lodge hall. This committee and others to follow investigated possibilities of several locations. Finally, on April 20, 1874, a committee was appointed to confer with brother G. W. Robinson regarding the building of a Lodge room on the third story of his contemplated new building. This edifice was to be located at the southeast corner of State Street and College Avenue. Brother Robinson was agreeable to the proposal.

A committee was appointed to solicit donations and to procure funds for erecting the new hall. In July 1874 the Finance Committee reported borrowing \$800 from William Dill at 10% interest. A note was drawn with a due date of July 1, 1877.

On September 21, 1874, Wor. Bro. F. A. Bull, who was a contractor, was given a contract to build a third story to the Robinson Building. His bid was \$1580. At that time Blendon Lodge reported 43 members in good standing. In December 1874 the Finance Committee borrowed an additional \$200 for the Building Committee.





**Former Lodge Hall—3rd floor  
S. E. Corner State St. and College Ave. facing the East**



**Charter and Silk Apron (framed). Chairs were used in  
former Lodge Hall. Charter Granted Oct. 31, 1862  
Silk Apron worn by Chester Griswald, (brought  
from Connecticut in early 1800's)**

PART IV  
**THE YEARS OF MOVING AHEAD**  
**1875 - 1924**

The first meeting in the new Lodge hall was held on January 14, 1875. New officers were installed and Wor. Bro. H. G. Sibel became the Master of the Lodge.

The new Lodge hall was a beautiful and well designed third floor facility. It still stands and has all the appearances of a Masonic Lodge hall. It has a hardwood floor and a raised outer circumference with well defined East and West. Seating areas along the sides added to the attractiveness of the hall. Blendon Lodge used this facility for 56 years until it moved to its present Temple.

One of the first expenditures authorized for the new Lodge hall was for the purchase of 26 yards of carpeting which cost fifteen cents per yard. This was purchased from Westerville's Rainbow Lodge No. 327 I.O.O.F.

Further early expenditures were for the frosting of windows and for the painting of stations. These expenditures amounted to \$8. On October 21, 1875, the new Lodge hall was dedicated in due Masonic form.

A special meeting of Blendon Lodge was called August 28, 1876, to consider the recognition of colored Masons. The representatives of the Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Ohio were instructed to vote in favor of the recognition of the colored Grand Lodge. The vote in the Lodge was 17 for and 8 opposed to such recognition. This action was consistent with the general attitude toward slavery and white-colored relationships held by the citizens of Westerville. At the Grand Lodge Communication, the subject was discussed and various proposals were voted upon. However, no satisfactory solution was found, nor were provisions made for recognition of colored Lodges by other states which were considering the subject.

May 6, 1889, the MW Wm. Cunningham, a Past Grand Master of Ohio Masons, met with Blendon Lodge. He instructed the Lodge on the proper manner of conferring degrees. Blendon Lodge has had a history of good work in all degrees.

In 1889 Blendon Lodge was in its 27th year. The fees had remained the same during that period with the exception of annual dues which had increased from \$2 to \$2.50.

**THE CERNEAU EPISODE**

From the time his name was mentioned as an imposter in 1815, Joseph Cerneau of New York was a disturbing element throughout Masonry for a period of eighty years. "Cerneau Bodies" sprang up in several states. The greatest Cerneau impact in Ohio was felt about 1886.

According to Henry Wilson Coil, an eminent Masonic historian, "Cerneauism" was a "type of clandestinism and fraud." He further stated that "Conditions were favorable to Cerneauism in the North, because two irregular Supreme Councils of Consistories got started there about the same time, 1800-1807."

Cerneau attempted to influence the Scottish Rite bodies which in many jurisdictions were weak. However, Ohio's Scottish Rite program was well defined and effective. The biggest question which was resolved in several courts was whether or not the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of a jurisdiction had control over other Masonic Bodies or their members. Courts consistently ruled in favor of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge as being the ultimate governing body. Most Lodges and most Masons concurred in this position. However, some Lodges and some members acted to the contrary.

In 1891 several members and officers of New England Lodge No. 4 at Worthington joined with members of a few other Lodges to form a clandestine Grand Lodge. This was too much! The Grand Lodge of Ohio Masons moved with dispatch. New England Lodge had its Charter removed and was denied the use of its Lodge facilities. The same fate awaited other Lodges who joined the Cerneau conspiracy.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio denied Cerneaus the "use or occupancy of the Lodge rooms in this Grand Jurisdiction." The MW Grand Master Levi Goodale issued orders that each Lodge must take from a visiting brother an oath that he was "a member in good standing of a Lodge of Masons recognized by the Grand Lodge of Ohio as regular, and that he was not a member of any society or organization declared by the Grand Lodge of Ohio to be bogus, irregular, illegitimate, or unmasonic."

This procedure was the beginning of the end of Cerneauism in Ohio. By 1895 New England Lodge No. 4 was seeking readmission into the Grand Lodge of F&AM in Ohio as were most of the few other Lodges that had pledged allegiance to a different Grand Lodge. However, it was not until 1899 that the members in New England Lodge who had not been taken in by Cerneauism were able to regain its Charter and to retain its No. 4 position among Ohio Lodges.

At the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio on October 20-21, 1895, the appeal of Justin Pinney for reinstatement in the Grand Lodge of F&AM Masons of Ohio was denied, nor was it ever honored thereafter. Pinney was the former secretary of New England Lodge and the former Grand Master of Cerneau Masons in Ohio.

We have discussed the Cerneau episode in some detail because of its effect upon a neighboring Lodge and because it was responsible for the fact that Horeb Chapter No. 3 moved from Worthington to Westerville.

Blendon Lodge from the time of its founding in 1862, had enjoyed good relations with New England Lodge and with Horeb Chapter which occupied common facilities in Worthington.

When the Cerneau interests of New England Lodge gained control of the Lodge and challenged the Grand Lodge of F&AM of Ohio, their action was soon followed by an edict from the Grand Master. The MWGM Levi Goodale in a communication dated April 20, 1891, notified all lodges of the "arresting of the Charter of New England Lodge No. 4." The Grand Master's action denied the Lodge or any other Masonic body the use of the Lodge's facilities in Worthington,

Blendon Lodge as early as November 1891, invited Horeb Chapter to come to Westerville. However, for three years Horeb Chapter met in the home of its High Priest, Companion Horace Wright, in Worthington.

Following the death of Horace Wright, Blendon Lodge, on September 17, 1894, adopted the following resolution which Horeb Chapter accepted:

**Whereas Horeb Chapter No. 3 RAM has been unlawfully deprived of the use of its Lodge room; And, whereas the greater number of the members of Horeb Chapter are members of Blendon Lodge; And, whereas the members are unable to hold meetings for want of a safe and convenient Lodge room; it is hereby tendered the use of Blendon's Lodge room.**

Horeb Chapter moved to Westerville with the approval of the Grand Chapter of Ohio. It has been a respected and well appreciated Westerville Masonic body ever since.

Several of the brethren of Blendon Lodge were present at the cornerstone laying of the Ohio Masonic Home at Springfield on October 3, 1892. One year later a railroad car was chartered and dully decorated to transport a number of Blendon Lodge members attending the dedication of the Home.

Blendon Lodge raised 44 Master Masons during the year 1894. This brought the Lodge's membership to 101, the highest in its 32-year history.

In October 1894 Blendon Lodge offered the use of its Lodge room to a chapter of the Eastern Star "free of charge for as long a time as they wish to use it for their meetings."

It was a tradition in the early days of Blendon Lodge, as it had been in Charity Lodge, that ministers of the Gospel had their fees, except for Grand Lodge dues, refunded to them when they were raised Master Masons.

A committee was appointed in November 1894 to inquire as to the cost of a suitable kind of musical instrument for the lodge. In December an organ was purchased and installed at a cost of \$32.02. This addition to the Lodge must have enhanced both the music and the ritual in a satisfying manner. With the arrival of the organ came an amendment to an Article of the by-laws which provided for the appointment of a chaplain and a chorister at the time of election.

January 7, 1895, Past Grand Master Charles C. Kiefer installed the officers of Blendon Lodge. At the same meeting a committee was appointed to purchase some new furniture for the Lodge. Horeb Chapter agreed to pay \$750 for a half interest in all of the Lodge furnishings.

A charge of unmasonic conduct was brought against a brother of the Lodge in March 1896. He was a furniture dealer in Westerville. Charges were made by his Masonic brother and partner in business, and by the president of the Westerville Bank who also was a Lodge brother. The charged brother had disposed of furniture from his store to a party in Columbus who turned out to be the accused brother under an assumed name. He had failed to arrange for payment of the furniture. His business partner was secured as a co-signer of a note at the bank. The accused brother failed to pay the note. A number of checks had been drawn against the bank in the name of the company which did not have funds to cover them.

Perhaps the most unforgiveable act of the brother was that of deserting his family in Westerville and cohabiting with a woman in rooms he rented and furnished in Columbus.

A Masonic trial was conducted by the Lodge with testimony heard from several sources. In spite of the brother pleading "not guilty" to the charges against him, he failed to appear at his trial. He was, however, represented by the eminent lawyer Brother E. L. Weinland who was appointed by the Lodge to represent his interests. Being declared guilty of unmasonic conduct on each of three charges against him, the accused brother was expelled from the Lodge and from all Masonic privileges.

On March 29, 1899, a committee on electric lights reported it had secured the wiring of the hall at a cost of \$30. The following month a bill of \$1.10 was paid for electricity.

Bro. R. L. Seeley, a brother of Blendon Lodge, who in May 1899 had been appointed the 14th Masonic District Lecturer, was present at Blendon Lodge June 9, 1899, for the purpose of inspecting the Lodge.

In July 1899 Blendon Lodge presented a chair to New England Lodge No. 4. The records do not state the style or quality of the chair. In October of the same year, Blendon Lodge purchased three dozen folding chairs at a cost of three dollars per dozen.

A telephone was installed in Blendon Lodge in May 1901. Within six months the Lodge requested a rebate of the one dollar per month for the six weeks the phone was out of order. Twelve years later, July 1913, the telephone was ordered removed because of the lack of service it provided.

In December 1902 the Natural Gas Company piped gas to the hall and installed three stoves, burners, and mixers for \$31. By the end of 1904, eighteen new electric lamps were added to the Lodge. Outside lights also were added which could distinguish which Masonic body was meeting.

In the late summer of 1901, the well beloved President of the United States William McKinley lost his life at the hand of an assassin while receiving friends in Buffalo, N.Y. Blendon Lodge adopted a resolution relative to this Masonic brother and distinguished servant of Ohio and our Nation. Sept. 19, 1901, the Lodge, headed by WB Otto Cornell, attended a Memorial Service for President McKinley which was held in the Chapel of Otterbein College.

Near the turn of the century, Blendon Lodge experienced a modest drop in membership for each of five years. However, beginning in 1905 the Lodge began a succession of new highs that started at a membership of 133 and continued for 24 years, rising to 361 members in 1928.

In 1905 the Lodge explored the advisability of forming a Masonic Association and purchasing the first and second floors of the building where it occupied the third floor. While nothing came of the idea, it does indicate that the Lodge was growing and was feeling the need for more room to serve its bodies. In January 1906 the State Building Inspector required the installation of a fire escape to the third floor Lodge hall. This was accomplished at an expenditure of \$62.

By 1906 the Lodge had slowly acquired most of the paraphernalia to do good ritualistic work. The procurement of robes and Fellowcraft suits brought Blendon Lodge up to a standard whereby it could achieve excellence in degree presentation.

In 1906 the inspecting officer, the RWB E. H. Archer, Lecturer of the 14th Masonic District, declared that he found the Lodge "in the most prosperous condition in its history."

On April 16, 1906, the Order of the Eastern Star presented Blendon Lodge a desk for the use of the secretary. About that same time a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of purchasing a lot and building a Masonic Temple. This committee, which launched upon a long series of decisions to be made by the Lodge, consisted of the WM W. M. Gantz, Bros. W. R. Cockrell, E. Horlocker, and W. C. Bale.

On May 10, 1906, ten Fellowcraft were in waiting to receive the sublime degree of Master Mason. That was the largest class in the history of the Lodge up to that time.

The year 1907 found the rounding out of the four Masonic bodies which have marched together for three quarters of a century since. They are Blendon Lodge No. 339, Horeb Chapter No. 3, the Order of the Eastern Star Mizpah Chapter No. 38, and Zabud Council No. 99.

On May 6, 1907, Blendon Lodge introduced a resolution which was adopted May 20 and read as follows:

Whereas a council of Royal and Select Masters has been organized in the City of Westerville, and as this organization will do much to promote the best interests of Masonry in the foresaid city,

Resolved that Zabud Council of Royal and Select Masters be granted permission to meet in Blendon Lodge hall. For every assembly held, it shall pay Blendon Lodge \$1.

Later in 1907 the Order of the Eastern Star was obligated to pay "25 cents each time it lighted the hall."

At the October 5, 1908, meeting of the Lodge, the following communication was read:

**From the Grand Secretary of F&AM of Ohio:**

**Bro. Otto Cornell, Secretary of Blendon Lodge No. 339:**

**Of all the 400 or more reports received up to this date, I can say without hesitation yours is the best. It is absolutely correct and perfectly legible, arranged alphabetically and gives first names as well as middle initials.**

**J. H. Bromwell, Grand Sec'y.**

The last Charter member of Blendon Lodge, WB Thomas J. Alexander, died February 20, 1911. He was Master of the Lodge from 1867 to 1870, before and after which he served four years as a capable secretary.

The trustees, having been instructed to secure an option on property they deemed advisable to hold, on January 2, 1911, reported they had secured a 60-day option to purchase the Dr. Hunt property on South State Street for \$5000. On March 6 of that year, the trustees announced the purchase of a lot at the northwest corner of State and Plum Streets for \$1,500.

In 1915 there was a new determination to purchase property and to lay plans for a new Masonic Temple. In March of that year, the Wombom-Meyer property was purchased for \$7,100.

In April 1915 the members approved the organizing of a Masonic Holding and Building Association. Appointed to the association were: W. B. Cockrell, E. M. Ricketts, T. C. Tussey, H. R. Jones, C. F. Johnson, F. H. Lambert, C. H. Patrick, E. H. Cherrington and H. D. Gamuill.

By April 1917 the Trustees and Board instructed to work on plans to build a Masonic Temple, reported that some progress had been made.

The Lodge-owned property in the State Street block north of College Avenue was sold to J. R. Williams and C. F. Williams, a father and son

combination. They dealt in the making of ice cream and the operation of a very popular restaurant known as "William's Grill." The sale price was \$9,500. The Lodge placed this money in a Building Fund, and voted that 10% of all monies received by the Lodge should be deposited in this fund.

By the year 1917 the Anti-Saloon League was "leading the way" for a building boom in Westerville. Dr. Howard Hyde Russell, renowned leader in the Anti-Saloon League movement, affiliated with Blendon Lodge on September 2, 1918.

May 17, 1920, three children of deceased brother Frank F. Lowry were favorable reported for admission to the Ohio Masonic Home. They were James Theodore Lowry age 14, Edward Lowry age 12, and Lee Howard Lowry also age 12.

## PART V

### WESTERVILLE DURING THE 1920s AND 1930s

The decade of the 1920s saw remarkable growth and prosperity in Westerville as was true throughout the nation. The once small agricultural center had become the "Biggest Little City in Ohio." Westerville had been the center of the Anti-Saloon League's activities since 1908. It was said that the town was better known around the world than any other city in the United States except New York and Washington. Everywhere it was called the "Dry Capital of the World." Eleven of its citizens were listed in *Who's Who In America* in 1924.

The city-manager type of government, first adopted in 1916, was functioning efficiently. The population grew from 2,510 to 2,885 during the decade ending in 1930. For the 1925-26 year, Otterbein College had its highest enrollment with 606 students. The Kilgore Manufacturing Company shipped to Texas box cars loaded with three million toy pistols in 1925. The Longfellow grade school building was constructed in 1929. The high school graduated 72 students in 1927.

State Street was widened from 44 feet to 50 feet in 1929 to accommodate the ever increasing flow of traffic. A modern touch came with the erection of "boulevard lights," which replaced the old suspended arc lights, and all poles and wires were removed from sight.

In the midst of this growth and prosperity came the crash of the stock market on October 29, 1929. Stock losses for 1929-1931 were estimated at \$50 billion in the nation. At first the full effect was not felt. President Hoover reassured the nation that the economy was sound. But as the months passed, our nation found itself in the midst of the worst depression it has ever experienced. Banks closed, factories failed, and an estimated 16 million workers were unemployed. From 1930 to 1933 there was widespread poverty and tragedy which became worldwide.



A headline of the *Public Opinion* in January 1931 said, "Slow Steady Return to Prosperity Predicted by Local Businessmen." But they were wrong. On November 25, 1931, the Westerville Bank failed. Kilgore, once employing 500 people, worked one or two days a week in 1931. From January to June 1932, Blendon Township spent \$3,000 on the poor. An average of 70 men were on relief.

During these difficult days, Westerville was fortunate to have Bro. Ross E. Windom as its city manager. He served efficiently from 1930 to 1940. With federal government assistance through the Civil Works Administration he was able to secure funds which were used to build and enlarge the city building, to construct the 190 foot dam across Alum Creek, and to build a Municipal Park on Alum Creek. During that period, carpenters were paid 50¢ per hour, plasterers 62¢, brick masons 70¢, and ordinary workers 35¢.

As we look back to those trying times, we wonder how Westerville Masons had the courage to build their beautiful Temple. Beginning with their final plans in 1927, they persisted until it was dedicated October 30, 1932, at a cost of \$100,000. In the spirit of Christopher Wren, the English architect and benefactor, they were dedicated "to do the best of things in the worst of times."



The Lobby Lounge

PART VI  
THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE  
1925 - 1932

*It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.  
It was the age of wisdom; it was the age of foolishness.  
It was the epoch of belief; it was the epoch of incredibility.  
It was the season of light; it was the season of darkness.  
It was the spring of hope; it was the winter of despair.*

— Charles Dickens

Discussion in 1925 pertained to the advisability of building “a straight Masonic building, or one that contained business rooms.” Some Lodge members said they would contribute if certain plans were drawn. Others said they would not support a proposal that did not satisfy their definition of what should be done. Those were “days that try men’s souls.” However, unity of purpose and ultimate achievement were the consummate desires of the brothers of the Lodge.

In February 1925 the trustees presented the following resolution, which was adopted by a 24-22 vote:

That the matter of a property for the building of a Temple be deferred and that there be authorized the naming of a Temple Committee of nine members, consisting of the Trustees of Blendon Lodge, the Worshipful Master of Blendon Lodge, the High Priest of Horeb Chapter, the Master of Zabud Council and three Members to be selected by the Lodge, which committee will have full authority to investigate sites, to option land, to employ an architect to prepare tentative plans, to appoint such sub-committee which in their opinion will be proper for the successful prosecution of this work, and to take such other steps as may be necessary to present to the Lodge a workable plan for procuring a Masonic Temple in Westerville at the earliest possible date.

Fraternally submitted,

Roscoe R. Walcutt, W. R. Cockrell, Earl D. Needham Trustees

Several sites for a Temple were explored. A motion was made at a stated meeting to purchase property on South State Street owned by the Anti-Saloon League at a cost of \$10,000. This motion lost by one vote at the following meeting.

Sentiment continued to grow that the intent to buy a site should mean to plan to build. “Buy Means Build” became the expression of the Lodge. The Trustees of the Lodge suggested that the members should prepare to pledge \$25,000 to \$40,000 and that no building program should be entered into until that was done.

In October 1926 the Building Committee was discharged and a new committee was elected by a vote of 54 to 17. This committee was given full power and authority “to select and purchase a site, plan, finance and build a Masonic Temple.”

Members of the new Building Committee elected by the Lodge were: Royal F. Martin, chairman; Harry Hance; Roscoe R. Walcutt; Lester E. Whitehead; Ralph W. Smith; E. W. E. Schear; W. W. Moses; R. Q. Karg and J. P. West. It was a strong committee of business and professional members who were destined to lead Blendon Lodge over new horizons of Masonic opportunities. Time proved them to be men of foresight, conviction and courage. They led the way, overcame obstacles and dealt adroitly with members of the Lodge. Eventually the Lodge and the Westerville community built a Masonic Temple which fifty years later is still meeting our needs and making us proud.

The road ahead for the committee and the lodge was all uphill for many months while plans were being projected and finalized. Financing the project was an arduous task. The drama of starting, retreating, and starting again, accompanied by the sweat and tears of earnest men striving together, provided a scenario seldom if ever equalled in Westerville or in any community of equal size and resources. The building of the Temple was carried forth and finally completed because of the character, vision and indomitable drive of the leadership of Blendon Lodge over a period of thirty years.

In September 1927 a campaign for funds was conducted under the direction of Messrs. Hedrick, Martin and Lundy who were professional fund raisers. More than \$79,000 was secured in cash and pledges under an insurance reimbursement plan to cover pledges in the event of the death of any person pledging.

On November 7, 1927, the Trustees reported the purchase of the Temple site at 130 South State Street for \$12,500. The lot was bought from the American Issue Publishing Company.

Plans for the Temple progressed. W. H. Tremaine was selected as the architect. General contractors were E. Elford and Son; Huffman-Wolfe, heating contractors; and the North Side Plumbing Company was retained for plumbing.

One of the most dramatic human interest incidents in the building of the Temple, was when, in November 1929, 31 brothers in the Lodge signed as guarantors for a \$50,000 note. When one considers the economic conditions of that time, and the attendant problems of the Lodge, their act was a genuine venture in faith, hope and love.

### **THE CORNERSTONE LAYING**

The cornerstone was laid on Saturday, February 22, 1930. RW Brother Simeon Nash, the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, serving Pro Tempore as the Most Worshipful Grand Master, headed the colorful ceremony. He convened the Grand Lodge at 3:00 p.m. in Blendon

Lodge Hall in a Special Emergent Communication. The following served as officers of the Grand Lodge:

MWG Mas. — Simeon Nash (Jr. Grand Warden)

RWDGM — Harry Meyer (District 14 Lecturer)

RW Sr. GW — John McClure (PM Goodale No. 372)

RW Jr. GW — Robert H. Pausch (PM Kinsman No. 617)

Gr. Treas. — John L. Tavis (PM Columbus No. 30)

Gr. Sec'y. — Robert W. Taylor (PM Community No. 684)

Gr. Historian — Charles S. Plume (PM University No. 631)

Gr. Chaplain — Austin Courtenay (Chaplain Hiram No. 18)

Gr. Orator — Chas. J. Pretzman (MWPGM)

Sr. G. Deacon — Burleigh E. Cartmell (PM Hiram No. 18)

Jr. G. Deacon — Mont Hambright (PM Harry S. Kissell No. 674)

Gr. Tyler — Guy V. Fridley (PM South Gate No. 692)

Sr. G. Steward — Geo. R. Schoedinger (PM East Gate No. 603)

Jr. G. Steward — David B. Shark (PM University No. 631)

Gr. Marshal — Robert H. Mulligan (PM York No. 563)

A procession was formed with the following persons assisting:

Bearing the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses — Harry T. Moore (Master of Caledonia No. 416), supported by Henry Laurence and W. E.

Hempstead (Past Masters of Blendon No. 339)

Bearing the three Lesser Lights — David A. Shade (PM Linden No. 637), John J. Rings (PM West Gate No. 623) and Albert C. Hager (PM Avery No. 493)

Bearing Corn — L. W. Parker (PM Ralph R. Rickly No. 670)

Bearing Wine — J. E. Fralus (PM New England No. 4)

Bearing Oil — J. H. Gerhart (PM Sparrow No. 400)

Bearing Square, Level, and Plumb — W. H. Tremaine (PM Kinsman No. 617), who also was the architect of the Temple.

The procession was headed by the combined bands of Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 1 and Columbus Commandery No. 69. Next in procession were 135 Knights Templar of the two Commanderies. About 250 Masons followed in the parade which moved through the streets of Westerville to the new Temple site. There the casket was deposited containing records, papers, and other interesting objects. The cornerstone was laid in conformity with the rules of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Following the ceremony the brethren and others of the audience moved to the auditorium of Westerville High School, one block north, where Grand Orator PGM Bro. C. J. Pretzman delivered an oration. The brethren then returned to the Lodge hall where the Grand Lodge was closed.

It was a thrilling day in the history of Blendon Lodge! The Lodge now looked forward to the completion of the Temple and a day of dedication. Much work remained to be done. But brotherhood of the finest order was very much in evidence. This boded well for the future.

In June 1930 a Masonic Club was formed to obtain members for and to operate a recreation program in the basement of the new Temple. Bowling alleys and other recreational equipment were authorized when the club membership reached fifty at a membership fee of \$35. All club members were entitled to bowling privileges for one year covering the full amount of the fees paid.

The club elected officers and adopted a constitution under which to operate, including the following terms:

1. One dollar a night be paid by the club to the Lodge for heat and light,
2. All profits to be turned over to the treasury, and
3. The club to furnish its own manager and janitor.

This program contributed substantial sums of money to help meet the obligations of the Temple.

March 2, 1931, was the last meeting in the Lodge hall at State Street and College Avenue. The first meeting in the new Temple was held March 26, 1931. Bro. J. H. Stokes was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Bro. Fred Haberman was the first candidate to be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in the new Temple. That was done on March 30, 1931.

On October 5, 1931, the Lodge approved the following recommendations of the Building Committee, and called for a three member committee to perform these objectives:

1. Collect unpaid pledges to the Building Fund, and solicit new pledges.
2. Employ legal counsel to institute suits for collection of delinquent pledges.
3. Rent or lease such portions of the Temple at such compensation as may seem proper.
4. Negotiate and contract for the sale of the former quarters of the lodge.
5. Finance or refinance the obligations of the Lodge.

The building and financing of the new Temple were not accomplished without frustrations and discontent on the part of some members. The annual report for the year ending in June 1932 reveals these facts:

Members 7-31-'31 .....	316
Reinstated.....	3
Died .....	2
Withdrawn.....	21
Suspended for non-payment of dues .....	61
Raised in the last year .....	1
Members 7-3-'32.....	236

The withdrawn and suspended figures total 82, but a good number of these slowly returned to the Lodge. However, no major achievement is

reached without the loss of some who either do not wish to assume responsibilities that face them or who have become disenchanted with the project.

Remember, too, that those were the days of the great depression of the thirties. Individuals, financial institutions, and businesses were faced with unusual circumstances. Some businesses and industries failed to survive. The same was true of financial institutions. Most of those that survived, went through a number of refinancing procedures that kept them in operation.

On August 1, 1932, the approximate indebtedness on the Temple was \$57,000. Over 85% of this amount was a first mortgage construction loan from the Columbian Building and Loan Company of Columbus. The remainder was represented by interest bearing notes. With the exception of \$1500 all of this was delinquent for payment of interest and principal.

Suits were instituted against three members who, having signed notes, had denied their obligations. Some tried to persuade other subscribers not to pay. They alleged that the subscription was not a promissory note but a mere application for insurance.

In one case, Judge Henry L. Scarlett of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court held that the subscription was "an unconditional promise to pay a definite sum of money during the life of the subscriber," thus establishing it as a promissory note.

By readjustment of the indebtedness resulting in eventual renegotiation and refinancing of the loan to the Columbian Building and Loan Company, the total amount of the indebtedness of the Lodge was reduced from \$57,000 to \$40,000. The interest charges were reduced from more than \$4,400 to approximately \$2,000 per year.

Eventually the Lodge building committee executed a promissory note to Aladdin Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. for \$26,000, payable in five years with 5% interest. A first mortgage note was executed with Aladdin Temple September 6, 1932. This then represented the total indebtedness on the Temple.

## **DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE**

**Sunday, October 30, 1932**

**Worshipful Master — David Parks**

The greatly anticipated and prepared for day finally arrived — the Dedication of the Temple of Blendon Lodge No. 339 by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F&AM of Ohio. The dreams of many were realized. The faith of those who had poured so much of themselves and their resources into the Temple was now justified. It was a courageous and proud band of brothers, who having stood shoulder to shoulder in pursuit of a dream, now were ready to kneel at the altar of thanksgiving to the Grand Architect of the Universe. It was He who had shed light and had given hope when darkness and despair could have robbed them of this day.

Three hundred sixteen members and visiting Masons were present for the dedication. They came from 67 Ohio Lodges and from 8 other states. They were led by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ohio Masons, Brother Simeon Nash, and other officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge Officers participating were:

MWG Mas. — Simeon Nash  
RW Dep. GM — Sam H. Squire  
RW Sr. G War. — Carl W. Ellenwood  
RW Jr. G War. — David B. Sharp  
RWG Treas. — John P. McCune  
RWG Sec'y. — Robert H. Pausch  
RWG Chap. — Austin M. Courtenay  
RWG Orator — Asa Queen  
RWG Marshal — William F. Berkheimer  
W Sr. G Deacon — Louis B. Blakemore  
W Jr. G Deacon — Harry Meyer  
Gr. Tyler — W. H. Maddox

Assisting the Grand Lodge Officers in the dedication ceremony were the following;

W Sr. Gr. Steward — John L. Davies, PM  
W Jr. Gr. Steward — Sinclair B. Nace, PM  
Gr. Architect — Royal F. Martin, PM  
Past Master with Gr. Lights — H. H. Lawrence, PM  
Stewards with Rods—Dewitt H. Leas, PM, Robert B. Sholtz, PM  
Past Masters with Symbols — B. E. Cartmel, A. G. Hager,  
W. J. Taggart, PM and R. R. Roffenbarger  
Past Masters with Tapers — J. F. Stelzer Jr., J. E. Frahm  
and M. R. Montgomery

A parade formed and, escorted by the bands of Mt. Vernon No. 1 and Columbus No. 69 Commanderies, marched through Westerville to the new Temple. The Grand Lodge Officers inspected and dedicated the Temple in full ritualistic form.

Past Master of Blendon Lodge Brother Emory J. Smith spoke of the lodge's history. Grand Orator Asa Queen addressed the audience on the majesty of Freemasonry and the values of temple facilities for the effective service Masons could render.

The day was a great success! A new and bright tomorrow had dawned for Masonic endeavor in Westerville.



From the *PUBLIC OPINION*

November 2, 1932

A dream of many years came true (last) Sunday afternoon when the new temple of Westerville Masonry was dedicated. Beginning at 2:30 o'clock in the old hall which for 54 years had been the home of Blendon Lodge, the exercise was transferred to the new temple.

David Parks, Worshipful Master of Blendon Lodge, opened the lodge session in regular form. Grand Lodge officers were introduced.

Formed at State Street and College Avenue, a parade then moved north on State Street to Lincoln and thence contermarched to the new temple. Here the Grand Lodge opened and carried out the ritualistic ceremony.

In the parade line, marshalled by William P. Berkheimer, Grand Marshal, and with Dr. Howard H. Russell bearing the national colors, were Masons of all degrees. Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 1 band supplied the parade escort.

Next in line came Master Masons, Past Masters, the Columbus Commandery No. 69 band, and Grand Lodge Officers.

Glenn Grabill was the organist and Arthur R. Spessard the soloist.

The dedication came at the time of the 70th birthday of the Lodge.

The building committee was: R. F. Martin, chairman, H. T. Hance, James P. West, L. E. Whitehead, W. M. Moses, W. K. Shelley, R. A. Smith, R. Q. Karg, E. W. E. Schear, and H. P. Sammons.

The temple is early colonial in architecture of stone, concrete, brick and steel. The floor space is 15,732 sq. ft. It is 48 x 122 ft. and three stories high. It was designed by William H. Treamine, Columbus, and built by E. Elliot and Son.

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At the November 7, 1932, lodge meeting, the first communication following the dedication of the Temple, a resolution was presented to increase fees for the conferring of degrees to \$40; \$10 for Entered Apprentice, \$15 for Fellowcraft, and \$15 for the Master Mason degree. The resolution was approved at the December 5 communication. The following resolution, also, was adopted:

That a House Committee of the Westerville Masonic Special Finance Committee be appointed, comprised of the following: Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Blendon Lodge No. 339, the High Priest of Horeb Chapter No. 3 RAM, and the Master of Zabud Council No. 99 R&SM.

They shall have charge of the care of the buildings and the grounds, shall direct the manner of its use, and shall perform all other duties usually performed by House Committees or as directed by Blendon Lodge No. 339.

Let us not overlook the great importance of the building of the Temple during this period of the Lodge's history. Yet, during those years, while fighting against great economic odds, Blendon Lodge remained active in spite of a precipitous loss of members — a loss it did not regain until 1948.

One example of the caring and sharing attitude of the brethren was evidenced in 1928 when a brother of the Lodge was hospitalized for a three week period. His family was in no position to underwrite the cost of his hospital stay. Blendon Lodge paid the brother's hospital bill. The benevolent hand of the Lodge touched a number of Westerville families during the days of the Great Depression.



**Blendon Lodge facing the East**



**Blendon Lodge facing the West**

## PART VII

# A BROADER SERVICE IN A GROWING COMMUNITY

### 1933 - 1982

On February 6, 1933, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Simeon Nash again honored Blendon Lodge with his presence. The occasion was the Annual Inspection of the Lodge. His words of encouragement and challenge were helpful.

MW Grand Master Simeon Nash again evidenced his interest in Blendon Lodge when he participated in the installation of the officers of the Lodge in December 1933.

The year 1933 was another trying time for the Lodge. The Worshipful Master B. W. Valentine and the officers of the Lodge faced real problems in maintaining a stable membership and in planning for the future. At the end of the year, the Lodge reported 141 members in good standing, down from 325 in 1930. Thirteen members had withdrawn their membership during the year. Eighty-five others were suspended for non-payment of dues. The depression with its economic impact had taken its toll.

During the next five years, 1934-1938, 80 brothers were restored to "members in good standing" status, while only twelve withdrew. A new spirit of unity and purpose was being asserted. In 1938 membership rose to 208.

A new Uniform Code of By Laws was adopted in February 1935. This action came after a committee had spent a year recodifying all by-laws and standing resolutions.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master Carl Weir Ellenwood was present for the Annual Inspection, April 19, 1935. Later that month, the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of RAM of Ohio addressed the Lodge on "The Philosophy of Masonry In a Day Like This."

The following month, May 18, 1935, RW Bro. Harry Meyer, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, visited the Lodge.

In June 1937 the House Committee was abolished and its responsibilities were taken over by the Board of Trustees.

The Diamond Jubilee Year of Blendon Lodge was 1937. That year also marked the 150th Anniversary of the Constitution of the United States. Both were celebrated with proper emphasis by the Westerville Masonic bodies.

The 150th Anniversary of the U. S. Constitution (1787-1937) was observed with appropriate music; an address by Bro. Horace W. Troop, Sr., a lawyer and Professor of Government at Otterbein College; and the reading of an article entitled, "The Constitution and Free Masonry," by Dr. E. W. E. Schear, Past Master of the Lodge.

The MWG Master Louis B. Blakemore addressed the Lodge on its 75th Anniversary, November 3, 1937. He was accompanied to the Lodge by M. W. Past Gr. Master Sam H. Squire; R. W. Past Gr. Master of the Phillipine Islands Stanton Youngberg; R. W. Bro. David B. Sharp and R. W. Bro. Harry G. McGregor, Lecturers of the 14th District.

The first funeral service held in the Temple was for Bro. Walter K. Shelly, Sr., on November 2, 1938. The service was conducted by Columbus Commandery No. 69. Bro. Shelly was a loyal member. He served on the building committee and as Tyler of the Lodge for a number of years.

In 1939, Dr. J. Ruskin Howe was elected the 13th president of Otterbein College. He was an Otterbein graduate in the class of 1921. In January 1924 he petitioned for membership in Blendon Lodge, where he was initiated an Entered Apprentice in August of that year.

Brother Howe then went to the Yale University Graduate School of Theology to complete his doctorate. He was passed to the Fellowcraft degree in January 1925 and was raised a Master Mason March 2, 1925, in Union Lodge No. 40 in Danbury, Connecticut as a courtesy candidate of Blendon Lodge.

Brother Howe later (in 1928) demitted from Blendon Lodge and affiliated with Mystic Lodge No. 405 in Dayton, Ohio. Upon his return to the college in 1939, he affiliated with Blendon Lodge and remained a member until 1952 when he demitted from Blendon and affiliated with Ashland (Ohio) Lodge No. 151 in 1954.

Payments on the Temple debt were made as pledges were paid. However, a \$1,500 note at 6% interest for the heating facilities was sufficiently past due in 1941 that it amounted to \$2,400. Brother Arthur D. Wolfe, to whom the obligation was past due, agreed that if by January 1, 1942, the Lodge would pay \$1,000 he would contribute the remaining \$500 and remit all interest. With a solicitation of new members who were raised since 1932 and the borrowing of a small amount of money on a 90 day note, Bro. Wolfe was paid.

In January 1944, the by laws of the Lodge were changed so that each candidate was approved to receive the three degrees of the Lodge on one ballot. Previously a ballot was required for each of the three degrees.

On May 1, 1944, the by laws of the Lodge were again amended. Provision was made to hold two stated meetings each month, the first and third Mondays.

The Lodge agreed in December 1944 to raise the level of the Master's and the Junior and Senior Warden's stations to better conform to Masonic symbolism. Plans also were projected for the decoration of the interior of the Temple. In 1946 the lobby of the Temple was beautifully decorated by Bro. Russell Cornetet.

The new president of Otterbein College, Dr. J. Gordon Howard, in February 1946 petitioned for membership with a demit from Stillwater Lodge No. 616 in Dayton, Ohio. His petition was accepted. Later Dr. Howard was elected a Bishop of the Evangelical United Brethren Church which in 1966 united with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church. He continued to serve as a Bishop of the Church following the union.

At the same time that Dr. Howard came into Blendon Lodge, Dr. Wade S. Miller petitioned for membership. He was cleared and was raised a Master Mason in March 1946. Dr. Miller was a former president of Shenandoah College in Dayton, Virginia. He left that position to become Director of Public Relations and Alumni Relations at Otterbein College. Later, in 1960, he served as Vice President of the college in charge of its Development Program. He continued in that position until his retirement in 1971.

In June 1946, A. Monroe Courtright was raised a Master Mason in the Lodge. Shortly thereafter, he became the Publisher and Editor of the Westerville Public Opinion until his untimely death in 1977. Monroe was on the positive side of almost every worthy project in the Lodge and in the city of Westerville.

May 14, 1946, the Lodge convened with 76 members and visitors present. They then adjourned to the Methodist Church for the funeral service for one of the most beloved members of Blendon Lodge and respected citizens of the city of Westerville, Brother Lester E. Whitehead, former Westerville Postmaster. He passed to the Supreme Grand Lodge above on May 12, 1946. A good number of distinguished Masons were present to pay tribute to this distinguished and respected brother.

On June 30, 1946, Dr. Bro. Howard Hyde Russell, a long standing member of Blendon Lodge passed away. His capabilities, enthusiasm and long time leadership in the Temperance Movement had given him recognition wherever he went.

Blendon Lodge has had an honorable record in support of the Ohio Masonic Home at Springfield. From the day of its dedication in 1895 until the present, the home has been a high priority for support among the brothers. Several members of the Lodge and members of their families have been the beneficiaries of the service of this marvelous institution.

Ill. Bro. James O. Phillips provided 25 years of devoted service to the Ohio Masonic Home. Jimmy was raised in Blendon Lodge in 1928. He was the Wor. Master of the Lodge in 1938-39. In 1946 he left his position as Business Manager at Otterbein College to be the Business Manager at the Home. In 1961 he became the Assistant Administrator of the Home, and from 1969 to 1970 he served as the Acting Administrator until Keith M. Bruster became the Administrator. Bro. Phillips then again became the Assistant Administrator until his retirement in July 1971. The Ill. Bro. Phillips was in retirement when he passed away in June 1981.

Dr. Bro. Frank O. Clements died May 8, 1948. He was a graduate of Otterbein College and Vice President of the General Motors Corporation where he headed the laboratory projects of the corporation. He was a liberal benefactor of Otterbein College and the Westerville United Brethren Church. Three Blendon Lodge brothers participated in his funeral service held at the First Evangelical United Brethren Church. They were Dr. Millard J. Miller, pastor of the church; Dr. J. Gordon Howard, president of Otterbein College; and Dr. J. Neely Boyer, professor of Sociology at Otterbein.

By the spring of 1949, the Temple mortgage was down to a balance of \$17,689. This represented a consistent and effective reduction from \$57,000 in 1935. Not only had mortgage payments been made, but the Temple had been improved and kept in a good state of repair. Most recently a new furnace burner was installed at a cost of \$1,800.

Over the next seven years, 1950-1956, payments on the mortgage were accelerated by special contributions in addition to the regular \$750 semi-annual payments. Finally, on April 2, 1956, the happiest day since the dedication of the Temple was at hand — **The Burning of the Mortgage!** To Brother R. F. Martin, Past Master, Chairman of the Building Committee, and general promoter of the financing program, was accorded the honor of actually burning the mortgage in a fitting ceremony. This climax to so many years of struggle and achievement brought cheers and tears from men who had done so much and who remembered so well what had been accomplished over a nearly thirty-year history of the Lodge. Some had actually mortgaged their homes in order to help finance and refinance the Temple building.

One debt can never be repaid. That is the debt of gratitude future generations of Masons owe to such men of devotion, courage and a willingness to repond to the challenges of Divine guidance.

One hundred thirty-four Masons were present for the mortgage burning ceremony. From other Lodges they came to rejoice with their brothers. Blendon Lodge paid tribute to the brothers of other Lodges who had given them both spiritual and temporal support.

Tragedy struck Blendon Lodge, Otterbein College, and the Westerville community July 12, 1953, when Dr. Bro. J. Neely Boyer and his wife Estella lost their lives in a plane crash in the Pacific Ocean off the Island of Guam. They had been visiting their daughter Wilma and family on Guam where their son-in-law, the Rev. Lieut. Robert Shoup was a military chaplain.

Bro. Boyer was raised a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge in 1924 while he was a student at Otterbein College. He was an ordained minister in the United Brethren Church and was minister of the United Brethren Church in Westerville from 1940 to 1945. During his tenure as minister, he completed his Doctorate at the University of Pittsburg and became a professor of Sociology at Otterbein College in 1945. Neely was elected to the Westerville City Council and was mayor of the city at the time of his death. The Boyers were popular and widely known in central Ohio. Their son-in-law Wor. Bro. Richard Fields was the Master of Blendon Lodge in 1958.

In 1958 the Methodist Church, now the Church of the Messiah United Methodist, located at the corner of State and Home Streets, built a beautiful and very worshipful new Sanctuary. Blendon Lodge was called upon to secure the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio to lay the cornerstone of the new edifice. The following information taken from the Grand Lodge Proceedings for 1958 (pages 133, 134) tells the story:

**Sanctuary of the Westerville Methodist Church:**

**Mr. Andrew J. White, Jr.,  
MW Grand Master of Ohio.**

**Dear Sir and Brother:**

Acting under your proxy the Grand Lodge of Ohio was called in special Emergent Communication at Westerville, Ohio, on the 13th day of April 1958 for the purpose of laying the Corner-stone of the New Sanctuary of the Westerville Methodist Church.

The several stations of the Grand Lodge were filled by the following brethren:

Bro. Roscoe R. Walcutt*	.....Acting MW Grand Master
Bro. Edgar T. Ott.....	Acting RW Deputy Grand Master
Bro. I. R. Lynch.....	Acting RW Sr. Grand Warden
Bro. Edwin A. Walker*.....	Acting RW Jr. Grand Warden
Bro. Ralph W. Smith*.....	Acting RW Grand Treasurer
Bro. Richard Coad*.....	Acting RW Grand Chaplain
Bro. John Dickout.....	Acting RW Grand Orator
Bro. Fred T. Williams*.....	Acting RW Grand Marshal
Bro. Walter Redding*.....	Acting W. Sr. Grand Deacon
Bro. Louis Kullman*.....	Acting W. Jr. Grand Deacon
Bro. Donald Detwiler.....	Senior Grand Steward
Bro. William George Wolf*.....	Junior Grand Steward
Bro. Floyd Harshman.....	Grand Architect
Bro. Richard Fields*.....	Bearer of Great Lights
Bro. John Mitchell*.....	Steward
Bro. Paul T. Ruckman*.....	Steward

Bro. Steven Smith\* .....Past Master With Light  
 Bro. L. William Steck\* .....Past Master With Light  
 Bro. Robert Hammer .....Past Master With Light  
 Bro. Roger Huhn\* .....Past Master With Golden Vessel (Corn)  
 Bro. J. C. Robertson\* .....Past Master With Silver Vessel (Wine)  
 Bro. C. M. Stockdale\* .....Past Master With Silver Vessel (Oil)  
 Bro. Gerald Seidler\* .....Acting Grand Tyler

There were 65 to 70 Masons in attendance, but owing to the fact that it was an outdoor ceremony, we would not be sure of a complete registration.

Fraternally yours,  
 Roscoe R. Walcutt

[Writer's note: Those marked (\*) were members of Blendon Lodge No. 339]

This was a fine activity in which the Lodge participated. The Senior Minister of the church, The Rev. Bro. Richard Coad served as the Acting Grand Chaplain for the occasion. Most of the participants in the ceremony were brothers in the Lodge and members of the Westerville Methodist Church.

On April 17, 1956, Bro. Thomas V. Bancroft presented the Lodge a silken, hand painted Masonic apron. It was given to Bro. Bancroft by Mrs. Louise Phelps Wells who found it, in excellent condition, while she was researching the settling of Blendon Township. The apron was owned and presumably worn by Bro. Chester Griswold as far back as 1816. Griswold was the Ex. High Priest of Horeb Chapter No. 3 in 1816, 1817, 1818, and 1821. He was the Grand Master of Masons in Ohio in 1819 and was a member of New England Lodge No. 4 in Worthington.

The newly formed Job's Daughters Bethel No. 52 was given permission to use the Temple, subject to rules and regulations prescribed by the Trustees. This group began its work in April 1956.

October 21, 1957, Cora and Bro. Emmett Bibler were recognized for maintaining the Temple in a satisfactory condition. They had cared for the Temple for two years while rejecting compensation for their service.

Bro. Bibler later became the Wor. Master of Blendon Lodge, the Ex. High Priest of Horeb Chapter RAM, the Ill. Master of Zabud Council R&SM, and the Commander of Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 1. He is a Knight of the York Cross of Honor and continues to be active in all of the Masonic bodies meeting at the Temple.

The secretary of a Lodge is the unsung hero of the organization. He keeps the minutes and records, maintains a working relationship with the Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, the secretaries of the Scottish Rite and the York Rite bodies, and deals with numerous questions and communications on many subjects. If there is an indispensable brother in the Lodge, it must be the secretary. His work is voluminous and essential.



Secretaries of the Lodge have been compensated for their services. They have been paid, in various years, \$10, \$30, \$40, \$60, ten cents per member, and other figures on a sliding scale. In 1956 the secretary was paid \$100. In 1981 the compensation was \$1.25 per member. A listing of Blendon Lodge secretaries is to be found on p. 69 of this writing.

When Ill. Bro. Roscoe R. Walcutt passed through the mystic veil and entered the Grand Lodge above on July 31, 1961, Blendon Lodge lost its most illustrious exponent of Freemasonry. Elsewhere in these writings can be found listings of the Masonic offices he held. However, it is difficult adequately to express the deep passion he held for the craft, or the eloquent manner in which he described Masonry on so many and varied occasions.

For slightly more than fifty years — 1911-1961 — he gave leadership, provided legal counsel, encouraged, admonished and otherwise expressed what Masonry is and how it can be achieved.

Born in north Columbus and educated at Columbus North High School and at Otterbein College, Roscoe taught school for one year before becoming a court stenographer. He later “read law,” passed the bar, and became a noted attorney in Columbus. He was a great promoter of public education and fought for better schools. This led him to the Ohio General Assembly where he served five terms in the Ohio Senate. One term he was Republican Majority Leader and President Pro Tem of the Senate. Another session of the Senate he was Minority Leader when the Democratic Party was in control.

Roscoe followed his tenure as senator by being elected to two consecutive terms as judge of the Franklin County Probate Court. He died early in his second term.

Ill. Bro. Walcutt enjoyed two distinct personal honors as a Mason. He assisted in the raising of his father Charles C. Walcutt to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1914, and in the raising of his son Robert as a Master Mason in 1948.

Beyond Masonry, Ill. Bro. Walcutt received Honorary Doctoral Degrees from Bowling Green State University, Otterbein College, Rio Grande College, and Central State College in recognition of his significant contributions to his profession and to society.

Two sons, Bro. Robert and Paul, and two daughters, Mrs. Margaret Tucker and Mrs. Pearl Shull, live to attest to the achievements of their father.

Blendon Lodge No. 339 and Reynoldsburg Lodge No. 340 were established in 1862. The two Lodges met at Blendon Lodge January 29, 1962. Bro. William E. Cole was the Wor. Master of Blendon Lodge while H. W. Rothrock was the Wor. Master at Reynoldsburg. They joined to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the issuance of their Dispensations February 22, 1862. There were 208 Masons and Ladies present for the occa-

sion. The Lodges were honored to have the MWGM Daniel C. Jenkins address them.

The second major emphasis during the Centennial Year of the Lodge occurred in May. The members, families and friends of the Lodge gathered at the Temple to hear the Honorable Carl V. Weygandt, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, speak on the subject, "Masonry's Challenge."

A fine program was arranged. WB R. F. Martin was Master of Ceremonies and Bro. William H. Troop, Jr. sang two solos.

New carpeting was laid in the Lodge room of the Temple in March 1962. This was a \$4,600 investment. It was followed with the installation of new drapes for the stage which had been enlarged. The drapes represented an expenditure of \$1,500.

On October 29, 1962, a special communication was called for the observance of the Centennial of the issuing of the Charter to Blendon Lodge. Following a dinner enjoyed by 168 Masons and ladies, MWG Master Ralph Francisco opened an emergent session of the Grand Lodge of Ohio for the purpose of reconsecrating the Temple. Following the ceremonies, the ladies were invited to the Lodge room, where the group was entertained by the Otterbein College Men's Glee Club under the direction of WB Arthur R. Spessard. The MWG Master delivered a most appreciated address in which he extended best wishes to Blendon Lodge for a successful century of Freemasonry in Westerville.

In January 1964 a new furnace was purchased and installed at a cost of \$3,000.

Since January 1966 the basement of the Temple has been used for school purposes. Primarily this has been for kindergarten teaching. What a beautiful group of children come there! They spill out of the basement into an enclosed out-door playground prepared especially for them.

At the Annual Inspection of the Lodge in February 1968, it was reported that the value of the lodge building and land was \$400,000. The furniture and chattels added \$7,500 to the value.

Repairs and improvements are an ever recurring experience for those who own property. In June 1968 roof repair, painting and electrical work amounted to \$2,000 of which Blendon Lodge paid \$1,000. Within another month the Lodge authorized spending \$4,000 to refurbish the outside of the building and to repaint the rooms used for school purposes. The cost of building maintenance and repair during 1968 was \$7,210. In 1970 another \$3,185 went for roof repair and \$4,400 for other repairs approved by the Temple board.

At the annual inspection of the Lodge March 12, 1969, the DDGM Richard C. McKeever was the inspection officer. He gave what has come to be accepted as a typical report of Blendon Lodge's performance: "Excellent, any other word would not be sufficient. All officers performed wonderfully well. The lecture and charge were done in a wonderful manner. All officers of Blendon Lodge have been well schooled in diplomacy...They exhibit Masonry in a splendid manner!"

In May 1970, the Lodge presented to W Bro. Royal F. Martin a plaque recognizing him as "Mr. Mason of Westerville."

September 1971 marked the death of two outstanding Masonic brethren. Dr. E. W. E. Schear and Dr. Royal F. Martin, both of Otterbein College.

At the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio held in Cleveland in October 1971, the MWG Master Fay L. Gullion appointed two brothers of Blendon Lodge to offices in the Grand Lodge of Ohio. W. Bro. Gene Sours was appointed a RW District Education Officer of the 14th Masonic District and the Rev. Bro. Morris E. Allton was appointed the RW Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge. RW Bro. Allton has been a member of Blendon Lodge since March 1947. He is a graduate of Otterbein College and the United Theological Seminary in Dayton. For five years he served in the Admissions and Public Affairs Department at Otterbein. In 1948 he joined the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation staff where he was Vice President in charge of Public Affairs until his retirement in 1977.

A reception for the Grand Chaplain was held at the Lodge April 3, 1972. MW Grand Master Fay L. Gullion and a good number of Masonic and non-Masonic guests were present. A clock and matching candle holders were presented to Bro. Allton on behalf of the Lodge. Wor. Brother Arthur Gorsuch, PM also presented Bro. Allton a lovely gavel which he had made.

RW Bro. Allton was again appointed Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in October 1973, this time by the MWG Master Royal C. Scofield. Grand Master Scofield and other Grand Lodge officers visited Blendon Lodge at a special communication on October 25, 1973.

Ill. Brother Horace W. Troop, a long time member of Blendon Lodge, served three years as Commander-In-Chief of the Scioto Consistory AASR Valley of Columbus, from 1969-1972.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio at its Annual Communication in 1972, following a three year trial which was deemed successful, adopted the following resolution:

1. **The Jurisdiction of each Lodge in this state shall extend over all territory in Ohio, and all Lodges shall have concurrent jurisdictions therein,**
2. **A lodge shall not receive a petition from a person residing within the Jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge.**

A tornado swept away great portions of Xenia in April 1973. Much damage was done to the Masonic Temple there. Grand Master Scofield appealed to Lodges throughout the state for financial assistance. Blendon Lodge contributed \$1,142 to help relieve the loss and to rebuild the Temple.

Blendon Lodge has made repeated visits to the Veterans Hospital at Chillicothe. Gifts of various kinds have been taken to distribute among the veterans.

At the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in Toledo in October 1974, RWB Gene Sours was appointed DDGM of the 14th Masonic District by the MWGM Robert Sager. RWB Sours was re-appointed as DDGM in October 1975 by MWGM Calvin Hubler, and was appointed for a third year in October 1976 by the MWGM Charles Ward. These were worthy appointments of a fine Mason who has been twice elected the Worshipful Master of Blendon Lodge.

WB Arthur Gorsuch, PM presented RWB Sours with a gavel and striking plate for use in his work in the 14th District. These implements were made by WB Gorsuch.

The Lodge felt a need for an organ on the Lodge floor. In December 1974 it authorized spending "as much as \$800 for an organ." The Fellowcraft Club pledged \$300 toward the purchase which was consummated early in 1975.

For a period of months, Blendon Lodge discussed sponsoring a chapter of DeMolay. On April 5, 1975, it was agreed that such a step be taken. A chapter was organized and in June 1975 officers were chosen and a lifetime fee of \$30 was established. The first meeting of the DeMolay Chapter was held September 9, 1975, when 19 young men were initiated.

The basement was leased to the Montessori School in 1975. The lodge spent \$3,000 to bring the school area up to standards required for a day care center.

Opera type upholstered chairs were procured from the abandoned State Theater in Westerville. These chairs, purchased in 1975, added both comfort and good appearance to the seating areas of the lodge.

Blendon Lodge under a Dispensation from the MWGM Calvin Hubler participated in the Westerville Bicentennial Parade on July 4, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. The Lodge also was a part of the Bicentennial Parade in Columbus June 12, 1976, in commemoration of the 14th Masonic District Flag Day. As a part of the Bicentennial emphasis, Blendon Lodge sold 26 Betsy Ross Flags and donated an additional seven flags to the Westerville Public Schools.

Wor. Bro. Alan Norris, Past Master of Blendon Lodge, was Chairman of the Ohio American Revolution Bicentennial Commission from 1975 to 1980. Wor. Bro. Norris, in January 1981, after completing 14 years of distinguished service in the Ohio House of Representatives (during which time he had served 6 years as Minority Whip), was seated as a judge of the Ohio Court of Appeals, 10th District, in Franklin County.

In June 1976, the Lodge was in attendance and wore Masonic aprons at the dedication of the Science Building on the campus of Otterbein College. The Building was dedicated in honor of Wor. Bro. Dr. E. W. E. Schear, PM, who for many years was chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences at the college. RW Bro. Morris E. Allton participated in the program of dedication. He spoke of Dr. Schear as a Mason and offered the prayer of dedication.

The value of land and property of Blendon Lodge was appraised at \$360,000 in March 1977. The Lodge has kept the building and grounds attractive and in good repair. In 1977 a new \$1,000 range was added to the kitchen facilities with Blendon Lodge paying \$300 of the cost. Landscaping to the extent of \$815 was also done that year. New steps were built at the back entrance to the building at a cost of \$565. A new door to the boiler room and a new drainage sump and drain line cost \$700.

In June 1977 Bro. Richard Beinbreck was installed as the Eminent Commander of Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 1 in Columbus. The following year, Wor. Bro. Garry B. Lee, PM was elected Eminent Commander of Columbus Commandery No. 69.

October 1978 Wor. Bro. Emmet Bibler was inducted a Knight of the York Cross of Honor. This is an honor to which one is eligible provided he is a Past Master of his Lodge, a Past High Priest of his Chapter and a Past Commander of his Commandery. Later this honor was bestowed upon Wor. Bro. Garry Lee following his year as the Eminent Commander of Columbus Commandery.

Blendon Lodge has contributed to many worthy projects. In 1977 a contribution was made to high school music programs. In 1978 an athlete was sponsored to the State Special Olympics for retarded children. This led to the sponsoring of two students to the 1979 Olympics.

Annual dues to the Lodge were increased from \$15 to \$20 in June 1978. At the same time a motion to remit dues to fifty year members was defeated. A motion to permit "a retired member at least 65 years of age and in good standing in Blendon Lodge to request a reduction in his dues from \$20 to \$15" was not approved.

In April 1978 RWB Morris E. Allton submitted to the Rufus Putnam Award Committee of the Grand Lodge of Ohio the nomination of Bro. C. William O'Neill, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court to receive the award. The nomination was accepted by the committee and Chief Justice O'Neill became the first recipient of the award which was established by the Grand Lodge in 1976. WB Harvey L. Napier, the Worshipful Master of Blendon Lodge, attended a Masonic celebration in Marietta on July 17. There he presented Bro. O'Neill to receive the award from the MWGM Jerry C. Rasor.

At the Grand Chapter of Ohio's Convocation in October 1978, RWB Frederick T. Williams was elected Grand Master of the 2nd Veil in the Grand Chapter. A complete list of offices Bro. Williams has held in the Grand Lodge, the Grand Chapter, the Grand Council, and the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus can be found on pages 16 and 17.

On September 29, 1982, Bro. Williams was coronated an Illustrious 33° Mason by The Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A., in St. Louis, Missouri.

Brother Williams also served as Supreme Watchman of Shepherds, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem (United States and Jerusalem) 1979-80.

Ill. Bro. Williams is a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Franklin County. He has been a responsible and dedicated Mason since he was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge, April 15, 1954.

October 30, 1978, Blendon Lodge held a reception for Ill. Bro. Howard Van Horn, 33°. Ill. Bro. Van Horn is an attorney and serves as Chief Deputy of the Franklin County Probate Court. He was coronated an Honorary 33° Mason at the meeting of the Supreme Council in September 1977.

In February 1979, WB Chester B. Weil resigned as Master of the Lodge due to his moving out of Ohio. RW Bro. Gene Sours was elected to complete the year as the Wor. Master.

RW Brother Richard C. McKeever, Past DDGM of the 14th Masonic District has visited Blendon Lodge on numerous occasions. He is a Mason of long standing and was reared at the Ohio Masonic Home. In April 1979 he was voted an honorary membership in Blendon Lodge.

In October 1979, WB Garry B. Lee, PM and his wife very generously donated a Baldwin Electric Organ to the lodge. The value of the gift was appraised at \$4,800. This was a fine addition to the facilities of the Lodge.

Fees for conferring degrees were increased from \$105 to \$130 in March, 1980—\$80 for the E.A., \$25 for the F.C. and \$25 for the M.M. Degrees. Fee for a demit was increased from \$1 to \$5.

The Temple Board received \$5,000 in May 1980 to blacktop the Lodge parking lot. That same month WB Harvey Napier presented the Lodge with a display case and two trophy trowels distributed at the consecration of the Temple when it was built in 1932.

In September 1980, rent to the Temple Board from the Lodge was set at \$600 per month. The Live and Learn School paid \$9,785 for rent in 1980. The King's Way Baptist Church paid \$3,540 for use of the Temple in 1980.

A proposed amendment of Article 2 of the Uniform Code of the by-laws to limit stated meetings to the third Monday of the month was defeated by the Lodge. It is now the first and third Mondays.

In April 1980 a brother of Blendon Lodge was accused of unmasonic conduct. He was tried by the Lodge in May and found guilty. This led to a vote to suspend the membership of the brother for a period of five years. This was the fifth trial for unmasonic conduct in the history of Blendon Lodge. As unfortunate as such incidents are, they are evidence that the Lodge requires acceptable standards of personal conduct from its members.

Bro. Montford Eldon Parr, who was raised a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge, has not attended the Lodge Meetings very many times. After spending 30 years (1948-1978) in the mission field in the South Sudan area of Eastern Africa, he and his wife retired in Sterling, Kansas in 1978. However, in 1981 his wife Mary and he returned to the Sudan to start a new mission station on the eastern border of South Sudan. From there he recently sent "Kindest regards to all at Blendon Lodge." What better exemplifies brotherly love, charity and fidelity?

In August 1981, another of our revered brothers heeded the knock at the celestial door that gains admission into the presence of the Grand Architect of the Universe. Ill. Bro. Horrace W. Troop, Sr., had served

masonry well, he, also, had been an outstanding citizen in Westerville and central Ohio.

Bro. Troop was a native son of Dayton, Ohio. He was raised a Master Mason in Blendon Lodge in January 1922 while he was a student at Otterbein College. Following his graduation in 1923, he earned the Master of Arts Degree at The Ohio State University. He later, in 1934, received the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Degree from the same university.

He was a professor of Economics and Government at Otterbein College from 1924 until 1952. For 47 years Bro. Troop participated in government at the local, county and state levels.

In Westerville he was a member and president, Public Schools Board of Education. He also was a member of the city council and Mayor of Westerville.

In Franklin County Bro. Troop was a judge of the Franklin County Municipal Court and Judge of the 10th District Court of Appeals.

Ill. Bro. Troop was elected to the Ohio General Assembly where he served three terms in the House of Representatives. The last office he held was that of Judge of the Ohio Court of Claims where he served as its first judge (1975-1979).

Judge Troop was a 55 year member of the Church of the Master United Methodist. His masonic offices are outlined elsewhere in this book. His contribution to mankind helped to express the finest Masonic example of service.

In 1972 WB J. R. Burgoon, Worshipful Master of Blendon Lodge, invited Salyersville Lodge No. 769 AF&AM from Kentucky, to visit Blendon Lodge and to present the Master Mason Degree Kentucky style. It was an interesting venture which resulted in three visitations: one at Blendon Lodge and two at Salyersville Lodge.

In 1975 WB Jack S. Cook, Worshipful Master of Blendon Lodge, was honored with an honorary membership in the Salyersville Lodge. Through WB Cook, PM, the Salyersville Lodge in the spring of 1982, passed on to Blendon Lodge a sterling silver "Cup of Brotherly Love."

The loving cup has a history. In 1976 it was initiated by the Philadelphia (Penna.) Lodge No. 3. Accompanied by a blank page book, the cup has been passed in turn to lodges in several states. Each receiving Lodge has had its name inscribed upon the cup and some accounting of its history written in the book. After retaining the cup for six months, it has been passed on to another Lodge. By the end of 1982, it is to be returned by Blendon Lodge to the Philadelphia Lodge which originated it.

This is a fine exercise in brotherly love — revealing that Freemasonry has fraternal binding throughout our wonderful land. It, furthermore, shows that brotherly love not only prevails within our Lodge, but also among Lodges wherever they may be. So mote it be!



In May 1981, annual dues of members of the Lodge were increased from \$20 to \$30.

As this publication goes to press, members of the Lodge and of the Westerville Community are saddened by the death of Bro. L. William Steck on June 9, 1982. Bill was a member of most Masonic bodies and of the committee publishing this historic account of Blendon Lodge.

Bro. Bill retired in 1981 after 30 years with Landmark, Incorporated where was the top salesman of investment securities. He graduated from Otterbein College in 1937, later earning the Masters Degree in History at the Ohio State University.

For seven years Bro. Bill taught Political Science and History at Otterbein (1944-1951). From 1957 to 1975 he served on the Board of Trustees at Otterbein.

For more years than any other Westerville citizen, Bro. Bill was a member of the Westerville City Council — 24 years. Eighteen of those years were devoted to the office of Mayor, and for four years he was Council Chairman. His effective human relations and leadership will be missed in the community.

The president of Otterbein College, Bro. Thomas J. Kerr IV, Ph.D., affiliated with Blendon Lodge in the fall of 1982. He demitted from Fortune Lodge in North Collins, N.Y. where he was raised a Master Mason June 1, 1957.

Bro. Kerr came to Otterbein College in 1963 as a professor of History. He was born and reared in Columbus, secured his B.S. Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University in 1956, the M.A. Degree in History at Buffalo University in 1959, and his Ph.D. in Social Science at Syracuse University in 1965.

## PART VIII

# TOMORROW

Westerville has been a good home for Blendon Lodge during the past 120 years. Indeed the fraternity and the city have grown up together. The Westerville of 1862, the date when Blendon Lodge was organized, had a population of only 668. Now (1982) the population is 23,414. The 27 acres which Matthew Westervelt and his brother Peter gave to be laid out for the village of Westerville, have grown to 5,760 acres, the equivalent of nine square miles.

The tomorrows will experience even a more accented growth. It has been projected by city planners that the population will double in the next twenty years to 50,000. It is anticipated that Westerville will remain largely a "residential, office-institutional" type city and not a heavy industry center.

Population increases favor small urban communities like Westerville. With its location near the center of Ohio and near the capital city, with its cultural climate enhanced by Otterbein College, and with its reputation as the "dry capital" still kept, Westerville has a salutary appeal.

Just as Westerville has been good for Masonry so it is hoped that Masonry has been good for Westerville. Its imposing Temple near the center of the city has helped to create an atmosphere of stability. From the reading of this history of Blendon Lodge it will be seen that many of Westerville's leaders have been disciplined in the school and arts of Masonry. It has produced a welcome release from the daily responsibility and work of its busy—sometimes overburdened—citizens.

A careful reading of these pages of history will give Westerville Masons a sense of pride and satisfaction. Perhaps this is the basic purpose of writing history. Our past must never be forgotten and gratitude must always be felt and expressed for those who sacrificed that the present may be enjoyed.

But as glorious as the past may be, we dare not look at it too long. If we do we will become complacent and self-satisfied. We must sense the freshness of tomorrow, the thrill of adventure, the challenge of the ideal. The future must always be aglow with hope.

Blendon Lodge accepts the challenge of tomorrow!

## WHEN IS A MAN A MASON?

- . . . When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage — which is the root of every virtue.
- . . . When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meaning in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.
- . . . When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of some forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.
- . . . When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.
- . . . When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his God.

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one it is trying to give to all the world.

Joseph Fort Newton  
in *The Builders*

## Blendon Lodge Members 1982

### \* Past Masters

- Akers, Dewey Vinson—32
- Albert, James Roger
- Alkire, Robert Wilbur
- Allton, Morris Edison—32—KT
- Anderson, Paul Raymond
- Andrix, Elwood Leroy, Sr.—32
- Ankrom, James Franklin
- Archer, Philip Reginald
- Arn, Robert Eugene—32
- Augspurger, Harold Frederick
- Arthur, Howard D.
- Ballard, David Maxwell—KT
- Bancroft, Robert Elliott
- Baker, Oliver D.
- Bannister, James Robert
- Barlowe, Timothy Michael—32
- Barney, Robert Leeroy—32
- Barry, William Kenneth
- Bartley, Bill Thomas
- Bean, Lester Fay
- Beard, Edward Franklin
- Behrens, Duane Leroy
- Beinbrech, Richard E.—KT
- Bellows, Lloyd Arville
- Benadum, Theodore Paul—32
- Bendel, Charles A.
- Bennett, Cecil Alson
- Benton, Fredrick Ray
- Berkhouse, James Robert
- Betts, Charles Kenneth
- Betts, Larry
- \*Bibler, Emmet Leroy—32—KT
- Biddle, Harold Hubert—32
- Blauch, Doyle S.
- Boetcher, Dannie Lee
- Bracken, Ronald Burdett
- Bridwell, Charles Clayton, Jr.
- Briggs, Ralph J.
- Brill, William H.
- Brown, Jeffrey Louis—32
- Brown, Norman Russell
- Bryant, Otis Williams
- Bumgarner, David Samuel—32
- \*Burgoon, James Richard—32—KT
- Burton, Paul Carlos
- Busch, David Ray—32
- Byers, David E.
- Campbell, Charles Alvin—32—KT
- Cantley, Hillard Jack
- Carden, Michael Lee
- Carlson, C. G. Arnold
- Carr, Herman Wesley
- Champ, Donald Lee—32
- Chandler, Robert Lewis
- \*Clapham, Leslie Dean
- Clark, James Robert
- Clark, Orville William
- Cochenour, William Lawrence—KT
- \*Cole, William E.—32
- Collier, Paul R.—32
- \*Conley, John R., Jr.—32
- \*Cook, Jack S.
- \*Cooper, Charles Horatio—32
- Cooper, James Allen—KT
- Corkwell, Donald Dean
- Cowan, Robert Charles—32
- Cox, Clifford Carlton
- Crim, Hale M.—32
- Crissinger, Loren W.
- Davis, David Y., Jr.—32
- Davis, David Y., Sr.—32
- Delong, Philip Ferman—32—KT
- Devoe, George Robert II
- Devoe, Lester Albert
- Dillon, Clyde
- Dils, Maynard Warner—32
- Dimke, Theodore Emanuel
- Doran, Donald Lee
- Doughty, Clinton Lenhart—32
- Downey, David Levaughn—32
- Downs, James Wilson—KT
- Druggan, Robert Wayne—KT
- Dunphy, James McGaughey—32
- Dustin, John Wendel—32
- Eaton, John Frederick
- Eberhard, Robert Henry—32
- Eichensehr, Charles William—32—KT
- Eis, Myron Adolph
- \*Elliott, Robert Wesley—32
- Elliott, William Gerard
- Ellsworth, William Caine
- Esselstyn, Albert James
- Evans, John William—32
- Farrar, Richard Gray—32
- Fawley, Robert Bradford
- Fillenger, Carl E., Jr.
- Fletch, Eddie Jefferson—32—KT
- Folland, Robert Floyd
- Foltz, Robert Russell
- Ford, Frederick Ira
- Ford, Robert Eugene
- Fouts, Clyde Fetzer—32
- Francis, Carlton Eugene—KT

Francis, Charles Leroy  
 Franklin, Wilbur Ray  
 Freeman, Harold Nash  
 Friar, Kenneth Roger  
 Fruth, Gerald Eugene  
 Frye, Sanders Admiral  
 Fuller, Thomas Eugene—KT  
 Garner, James Lee  
 Garrett, Thurman Wallace—32—KT  
 Gehring, Charles Lee—32—KT  
 Gerwig, Brian Dennison  
 Gifford, Don Charles  
 Glasgow, Jeffrey L.  
 Gleason, Dale Horton—32  
 Gorsuch, Alan Lee  
 \*Gorsuch, Arthur Joseph  
 Gorsuch, Richard Harold  
 Gould, Burton Eugene  
 Gould, Jack Jay  
 Grant, Roy K.  
 Greene, Calvin Clifford  
 Greene, Kenneth McArthur  
 Greig, Harold William  
 Gustavson, George W. C., Jr.  
 Hall, Richard A.  
 Hall, Robert H.  
 Hammer, Robert C.  
 Hammond, Granville Sharp  
 Hampton, Larry Wayne—32  
 Hanley, Michael Joseph  
 Hannaman, Curtis Ray—32  
 Harmon, Harold Eugene  
 Harmon, John Allen—32  
 Harmon, William Eugene—32  
 Harney, Donald Wayne  
 Harper, Jack Elric—KT  
 Harrington, Richard Lee  
 Hasebrook, Albert Bernard, Jr.  
 Hatcher, Ralph Waldo, Jr.  
 Hayman, John Henry  
 Hayner, Gene E.  
 Hays, Duane Edward—KT  
 Hedrick, Ira Lee, Jr.  
 Hempy, James Francis, Sr.  
 Henney, Joseph Carl  
 Henning, Charles Leo  
 Heskett, Rick Lee  
 Hicken, Bruce Owen  
 Hill, Frank Ellsworth—32  
 Hill, James Edward  
 Hill, Virgil Ellis  
 Holdren, Gary Eugene—32  
 Holdren, Hazard Charles—KT  
 Holmes, Charles Walters—32  
 Holmes, Harold Raymond  
 Homan, Kenneth Stephen  
 Hoover, Alfred Buck  
 Hughes, Robert Wray  
 Hyduke, Nick V.  
 Jacober, Jack Leroy—32  
 Jarnagin, John Franklin  
 Jarnagin, Richard Howard  
 Jarvis, Joseph Ernest—32  
 Jenkins, George Martin  
 Johnson, Billy W.  
 Johnson, John Virgil—32  
 Johnson, John Virgil II—32  
 \*Johnson, Ronald Louis  
 Johnston, Jesse Pence  
 Jones, Charles Clifford  
 \*Joyce, Robert Lee  
 Kahler, Karl Myron  
 Karn, Edgar Allen—32  
 Kellar, Harry Brown  
 \*Kelling, Frederick Henson—KT  
 Kennedy, Earl F., Sr.  
 Kerr, Thomas J. IV — 32  
 Keyes, Donald Lee  
 Keyes, Richard Earl  
 Keyser, Jack—32  
 Keyser, James Terry  
 Kilgore, John Garis—KT  
 \*Kiner, John Dean—32—KT  
 Kiner, Rodney Ray—32—KT  
 King, Alton Jerger  
 Kinney, Robert Ritter  
 Kipp, Frederick Huston  
 Kirkpatrick, Wade Garland  
 Kiser, Richard Henry  
 Kitchen, Billy Lee  
 Kline, Homer Baker  
 Knisley, Karl P.  
 \*Kopp, Delbert Richard  
 Kopp, Robert Eugene—32  
 Krause, Billy Kendall  
 Krebs, Kenneth Keith  
 Laird, Robert Dean—KT  
 Laird, Robert Dean, Jr.  
 Larabee, Orion Jack, Jr.—KT  
 \*Lee, Garry Benjamin—32—KT  
 Lehman, Robert Schroder, Jr.—32  
 Lehman, Robert Schroder, Sr.—32  
 Lightner, Charles B.  
 Lindsey, Jack Willard—32  
 Logan, Samuel Gilson  
 Lohn, Raymond Chester  
 Loomis, Elmer Carson  
 Lord, Christian W.

Lord, Oscar Louis, Jr.  
 Lord, Oscar Louis III  
 Lowe, Oscar Lee  
 Lund, Donald  
 Lund, Richard Ole  
 Lust, Herbert Leroy  
 Lyter, John Davidson—32  
 MacIntosh, Henry Clifford, Jr.  
 Machmer, John  
 Mark, Richard Edwin  
 Marsh, Marshall Cline—KT  
 Marshall, James John  
 Martenstyn, Clarence Hubert—32  
 Martin, Stephan Linn  
 Mays, Charles Edwin  
 McCorkle, William Ralph, Jr.—32  
 McElwee, Robert McComb  
 McKeen, David Richard—32  
 McKeen, Thomas Kevin—32  
 McVay, Forrest Oval  
 McVay, Maurice Robert—32  
 Meeks, Gordan Franklin—32  
 Meredith, Paul Darcy—32  
 \*Miesse, Marvin B.  
 Miller, Howard Harry  
 Miller, Jerome Herman  
 Miller, Millard Joseph  
 Miller, Wade Sellers  
 Moore, Jack Albert  
 Moreland, Jack William—32  
 Moreland, Kenneth William—32  
 Moreland, Robert Jason—32  
 Morris, Herman L.  
 Morris, John Steven—32  
 Morris, M. Dan  
 Morris, Stephan Everett  
 Moyer, Herman William  
 Moyer, Mark William  
 Mullins, Marvin—32  
 Murphy, Stanley Henderson  
 Myers, Richard Lewis—32  
 \*Napier, Harvey Lee—KT  
 Needham, Richard Earl  
 New, Thomas Eugene  
 Newland, Harry Otto  
 Nocks, Walter Pabst  
 \*Norris, Alan E.  
 Norris, David Gordon—KT  
 Norris, James Russell  
 Nourse, John Harold—32  
 Novotny, George Washington  
 Opfer, Ronald Earl  
 Otting, Edward Abram  
 Ouellet, Louis Philip—KT  
 Outcult, Milton  
 Overly, Robinson McCormick  
 Owens, Marshall Riley  
 Parr, Montford Elden  
 Parsons, Harry Elisha  
 Parsons, Lovell Minor—32  
 Parsons, Roger Lee  
 Pascue, Robert Joseph—32  
 Pearce, William James—32  
 Pisor, Charles Trudeau—32  
 Ponzi, Melvin E.  
 Powers, Samuel, Jr.—32  
 Priest, Harold Edward  
 Pringle, Thomas—32  
 Pryor, James William  
 Pyle, James Milton  
 \*Rawdon, Ira P., Jr.—32—KT  
 Reed, Phillip Russell  
 Regenos, John W.  
 Reich, Clifford Eugene—32  
 Reich, Gary Clifford—32  
 Reynolds, Charles W.  
 Richardson, Loring R.  
 Richardson, Robert Alfred  
 Riebel, Edward Carl  
 Riggs, Albert Franklin—32  
 Robbins, Richard Lee—32  
 \*Robertson, Joseph Claude—KT  
 Robinson, William Edward  
 Rohal, James Nicholas  
 Rohal, John—32  
 Rohal, John Walter—32  
 Rohner, Robert Dale  
 Ross, Lewis Paul—32  
 Rownd, James Horton  
 Ruckman, Paul Thomas—32  
 Ruckman, Richard James  
 Rusk, David Earl—32  
 Rusk, Philip Joseph  
 Sadler, John William—32  
 Samson, David Ralph  
 Samson, Ralph Wood—32  
 Sanders, Elmer Rufus  
 Sanders, Harry Lee  
 Sanford, Herman Richard  
 Sayre, James Wayne, Sr.  
 Scatterday, Henry Floyd  
 Schear, Rillmond Wible  
 Schell, John Henry  
 Schultz, Arthur Leroy—32—KT  
 Schutte, Harry Anthony, Jr.—KT  
 Schwind, Harry Eugene—32  
 Schwind, Harry George—32  
 Scott, Paul Allen—32—KT

Seagle, John C.—KT  
 Secrest, Harry Carroll  
 Selby, Samuel Thomas—32  
 Seydler, Sherman August, Jr.—32  
 \*Shackson, James Lee—KT  
 Shackson, Lucius Lee  
 Shaeffer, Russell Leon—32  
 Shafer, Robert Leroy—32  
 Shaffer, John M.  
 Shaw, Clarence Charles  
 Shaw, Roderick Reese—KT  
 Shelly, Walter Karrell, Jr.  
 Shoemaker, John Davenport  
 Shoemaker, Ross Welling  
 Shumaker, John Ressler  
 Sims, Robert Dennis—32—KT  
 \*Sizer, Charles Paul—32—KT  
 \*Slack, William Kendall  
 Slemmer, Donald Gene, Sr.—32  
 Smith, Earl Oscar  
 Smith, John Archibald—32  
 Smith, Lewis Frederick—32—KT  
 Smith, Luther Thomas—32  
 Smith, Noble Billman—32  
 Snyder, Ashford Carl—32  
 Snyder, Larry Dee  
 \*Sours, Gene Edwin—KT  
 Spears, William Ross, Jr.  
 Specht, Robert Ervin  
 Specie, Frank Filker  
 Sporck, Howard Albert  
 Sprout, David Judd  
 Stark, Sidney Albert  
 Stauffer, William O.  
 Steinmetz, Lewis Wetsel  
 Stewart, Milton French, Jr.  
 \*Stockton, Charles Looney  
 Stockwell, Robert Wagner  
 Stokes, Charles Enoch  
 Stokes, Thomas Alvin, Sr.—32  
 Stout, Harold C.—32  
 Strauch, William Ray—32  
 Stufflebeam, David Michael—KT  
 Sturtz, David Dale—32  
 Sullivan, Joseph F.  
 Swank, Charles William—32  
 Swickard, Ralph Howard—32  
 Swickard, Wilbur Kirwin  
 Syar, James Edwin  
 Talbott, John Malcolm—32  
 Talbott, Willard Pascal—32  
 Taylor, Jennings Clyde  
 Tepper, John Jacob  
 Thatcher, Robert Jack  
 Thompson, Carlton M.  
 Thompson, James Michael—32—KT  
 Thompson, Joseph M.—32  
 Topolosky, Harry Wolfe—32  
 Townsley, Jon Mikal  
 Troop, Horace William, Jr.—32—KT  
 \*Turner, Frank T., Jr.—32—KT  
 Valdez, Joe Luis  
 Van Horn, Howard Wesley—33  
 Van Horn, Terry Dale—32  
 Van Winkle, Merald S.—32  
 Walcutt, Robert Pegg  
 Walker, Edwin Alexander—32  
 Walter, Gary Keith  
 Ward, Alvin Leon  
 Ward, Harry H., Jr.—32  
 Ward, Robert Lee  
 Watkins, Edmund Samuel—32  
 Watkins, Marvin Maurice  
 Weekly, Raymond Edward—KT  
 \*Weil, Chester Bunkley—KT  
 Wheeler, James Arthur  
 Wheeler, Thomas Edwin—32  
 Whitacre, Charles B.—32  
 Wilburn, Donald Edwin  
 Wilcox, Richard Floyd  
 \*Williams, Frederick Ted—33—KT  
 Williams, James Hutchinson  
 Williams, Thomas Theodore—32  
 Willis, William Muril—32  
 \*Wilson, Fred Allen  
 Windom, Ross Emerson  
 Wintermute, Edward Tunis—32  
 Wolf, Paul Edward—32  
 Wolf, Wayne O.—32  
 Wolfe, Derrill Edward—KT  
 Wood, Byron Dale  
 Wood, Grant Scott  
 Wren, Harry Von  
 Writesel, William George—32—KT  
 Yinger, Harold Wayne  
 Young, Cameron Paul  
 Zastudil, Thomas Taylor—32  
 Zezech, John Smith—32  
 Zimmerman, John Michael  
 Zollinger, Ronald Eugene—32

## **FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS**

1933 Howard Hyde Russell*	1973 Elmer C. Loomis
1933 H. H. Lawrence*	1974 Clarence H. Martenstyn
1934 Jackson Robertson*	1976 David Davis
1946 Harry G. Gorsuch*	1976 William Eddie Birchem*
1953 W. O. Lambert*	1976 Charles B. Lightner
1956 Frank Marion Davis*	1977 Russell Norris
1956 William J. Every*	1977 Joseph Claude Robertson
1956 Boyd Patterson*	1977 Robert Lee Shute*
1961 Roscoe R. Walcutt*	1977 Theodore E. Dimmke
1965 Royal Fields Martin*	1977 Cecil Allison Bennett
1965 E. W. E. Schear*	1977 Robert L. Pennington*
1967 Ray W. Gifford*	1978 Ross E. Windom*
1967 Alva D. Cook*	1978 Arthur J. Gorsuch
1969 Theodore M. Beal*	1978 James Otterbein Phillips*
1969 A. C. Gammill*	1978 Charles A. Clifton*
1970 Louis L. Quackenbush*	1978 William Quentin Kintigh*
1970 Claire Wilkin*	1979 Walter K. Shelly, Jr.
1971 William Lester Beatty*	1980 Henry F. Scatterday
1972 Horace William Troop, Sr.*	1980 Rillmond Wible Schear
1972 Harry H. Kilgore*	1980 Earl Kennedy
1972 Samuel M. Steele*	1980 Claude Hall*
1973 Harold N. Freeman	1980 Lowell Gibson*
1973 A. Dwight Curfman*	1981 Noble Billman Smith
1973 James H. McCloy*	1982 Wilbur Ray Franklin
1973 Jesse P. Johnson	

## **SIXTY YEAR MEMBERS**

1977 Howard McClarren*	1981 Robert McComb McElwee
1979 Francis Hedgecock*	1981 William O. Stauffer
1981 Sanders A. Frye	

## **SIXTY FIVE YEAR MEMBERS**

1968 Claude S. Yothers*	1981 Homer B. Kline
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## **SEVENTY YEAR MEMBERS**

1975 Charles Foster Johnson*
1979 Herman H. Brinkman*

\* Deceased



**SECRETARIES OF  
BLENDON LODGE NO. 339  
1862 — 1982**

Feb. 1862-Feb. 1864—Thomas J. Alexander\*  
Feb. 1864-Jan. 1867—Samuel S. Sked\*  
Jan. 1867-Dec. 1868—S. G. Foos\*  
Jan. 1869-Dec. 1869—D. W. Davis\*  
Jan. 1870-Dec. 1870—H. G. Sibel\*  
Jan. 1871-Dec. 1871—J. W. Clark\*  
Jan. 1872-Jan. 1873—S. S. Sked\*  
Feb. 1873-Dec. 1873—G. A. Vance\*  
Dec. 1873-Dec. 1874—D. W. Coble\*  
Dec. 1874-Dec. 1875—W. Y. Bartels\*  
Dec. 1875-Dec. 1877—H. T. Sibel PM\*  
Dec. 1877-Dec. 1878—D. W. Coble\*  
Dec. 1878-Dec. 1879—H. R. Sibel PM\*  
Dec. 1879-Jan. 1882—D. W. Coble\*  
Jan. 1882-Jan. 1884—L. T. Scofield\*  
Jan. 1884-Jan. 1885—D. W. Coble PM\*  
Jan. 1885-Dec. 1885—W. W. Moses\*  
Jan. 1886-Dec. 1887—A. J. DeLawater\*  
Jan. 1888-Jan. 1889—M. C. McLeod\*  
Jan. 1889-Jan. 1890—E. E. Beam\*  
Jan. 1890-Jan. 1891—D. L. Markley\*  
Jan. 1891-Dec. 1892—F. E. Samuel\*  
Jan. 1893-Jan. 1895—D. W. Coble PM\*  
Jan. 1895-Jan. 1896—F. E. Samuel\*  
Jan. 1896-Dec. 1899—H. T. Sibel PM\*  
Jan. 1900-Dec. 1903—C. P. Sprague\*  
Jan. 1904-Feb. 1920—Otto B. Cornell PM\*  
Feb. 1920-Nov. 1920—Ralph W. Smith PM\*  
Dec. 1920-Nov. 1923—Samuel J. Fickel\*  
Nov. 1923-July 1931—Lester E. Whitehead PM\*  
July 1931-Nov. 1933—C. E. Watts PM\*  
Nov. 1933-Nov. 1936—Lester E. Whitehead PM\*  
Nov. 1936-Nov. 1937—B. W. Coate PM\*  
Nov. 1937-Nov. 1938—John E. Wenrich  
Nov. 1938-Nov. 1941—James O. Phillips PM\*  
Nov. 1941-Nov. 1942—J. N. Nodes\*  
Nov. 1942-Nov. 1943—J. E. Best\*  
Nov. 1943-Nov. 1949—R. L. Cornetet PM\*  
Nov. 1949-Nov. 1950—G. W. Thomas\*  
Nov. 1950-Nov. 1952—L. W. Kullman\*  
Nov. 1952-Nov. 1953—W. Kendall Slack

Nov. 1953-Nov. 1954—Richard H. Fields  
Nov. 1954-Nov. 1955—E. W. E. Schear\*  
Nov. 1955-Nov. 1958—L. W. Kullman\*  
Nov. 1958-Nov. 1960—Ralph W. Smith PM\*  
Nov. 1960-Nov. 1961—Frank E. Hill  
Nov. 1961-Nov. 1964—Richard H. Fields PM  
Nov. 1964 —W. Kendall Slack PM

\* Deceased

## APPENDIX

### The Ohio Masonic Home

Dear to the hearts of all Masons is the service performed for children, aged and indigent persons in the various Homes and Hospitals created and maintained by the craft. The Ohio Masonic Home at Springfield, established in 1895, has had a long and endearing record of service. A number of Westerville Masons, their wives and children have been the beneficiaries of the facilities and loving care of the Home.

An endowment fund to better assure the financing of the Home was established in 1941. To that fund, Blendon Lodge has contributed a total of \$30,402.23 as of June 1982. This giving will continue to have a high priority among the Lodge's contributions in future years.

A Chapel Fund for the Home was established in 1967 when MWGM Ben Evans asked each Lodge in Ohio to contribute one dollar per member in that year. Blendon Lodge contributed \$381 which represented the one dollar per member goal.

Hundreds of dollars have been contributed to the "Sunshine Fund" of the Home to help provide little extra services.

Each year several members of the lodge visit the Home to meet with those near and dear to them who are "at home" there. Special programs frequently have representatives of Blendon Lodge in attendance.

Judge and Ill. Bro. Roscoe R. Walcutt was a member of the board from August 23, 1944, until his death July 31, 1961.

# OHIO MASONIC HOME RESIDENTS

Sponsored by  
Blendon Lodge No. 339

Name	Year entered the Home	No. of years at the Home
<b>CHILDREN</b>		
Lowry, Lee H. ....	1920	7
Lowry, Charles E. ....	1920	7
Lowry, James ....	1920	1
Jackson, Katherine ....	1929	9
Jackson, Paul ....	1929	8
Jackson, Audrey ....	1929	10
Three Freeman children ....	1930	7 each
(Names unknown)		

<b>ADULTS</b>		
Karns, William L. ....	1938	8
Karns, Maud (Mrs. Wm. L.) ....	1938	11
Lawson, Percy (Mrs. Don).....	1939	2
Gorsuch, Harry ....	1944	6
Lee, Mary E. ....	1948	3
Lawrence, Lucy (Mrs. H.H.).....	1952	3
Shumaker, Don ....	1967	4
Shumaker, Lillie Resler (Mrs. Don).....	1967	7
Harrington, Lillian (Mrs. Carl).....	1976	4
Schear, Marian B. (Mrs. E.W.E.).....	1976	6 to date
Brinkman, H. H.....	1977	2

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20 residents — 117 years

## MASONIC FUNERALS CONDUCTED IN THE TEMPLE

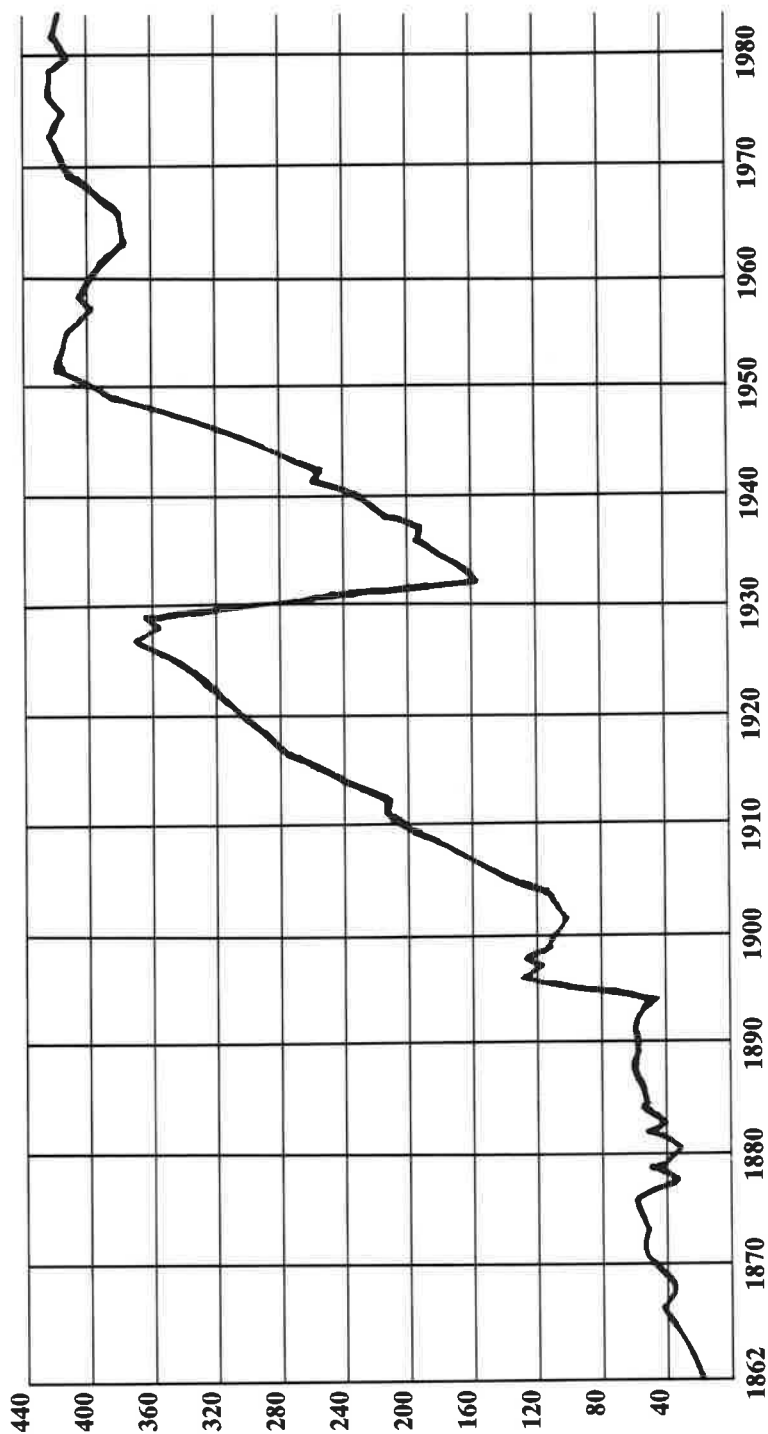
Walter K. Shelly, Sr. ....	November 2, 1938
Allen Leslie Troutman ....	December 28, 1945
Frank H. Jacobs ....	August 5, 1952
A. Dolle ....	April 9, 1953

**BLENDON LODGE**  
**FEES AND DUES CHANGES**  
**1862 — 1982**

**FEES**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EA</b>	<b>FC</b>	<b>MM</b>	<b>AFFIL.</b>	<b>DUES</b>
1862 ....	\$ 20	\$ 10	\$ 5	\$ 5	x	\$ 2.00
1895 ....	x	x	x	x	x	1.50
1907 ....	25	10	5	10	x	x
1910 ....	30	10	10	10	x	x
1914 ....	x	x	x	x	x	2.00
1915 ....	x	x	x	x	x	3.00
1924 ....	50	15	15	20	\$5	x
1928 ....	60	20	20	20	x	6.00
1931 ....	68	28	20	20	x	x
1933 ....	40	10	15	15	x	x
1947 ....	x	x	x	x	1	6.50
1950 ....	x	x	x	x	x	8.00
1960 ....	x	x	x	x	x	10.00
1972 ....	x	x	x	x	x	15.00
1973 ....	75	25	25	25	x	x
1978 ....	x	x	x	x	x	20.00
1979 ....	105	50	35	20	x	x
1980 ....	130	80	25	25	5	x
1981 ....	150	100	25	25	x	30.00

x = No Change



**Blendon Lodge No. 339 Membership Chart 1862 - 1982**

# TRANSLATION OF SYMBOLS USED IN THIS BOOK

## (Listed Alphabetically)

- ASSR — Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite  
AAONMS — Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine  
Affil. — Affiliation  
Bro. — Brother  
DDGHP — District Deputy Grand High Priest  
DDGM — District Deputy Grand Master  
DEO — District Education Officer  
EA — Entered Apprentice  
Ex Gr Gd — Excellent Grand Guard  
Ex HP — Excellent High Priest  
FC — Fellow Craft  
F&AM — Free and Accepted Masons  
Gen. Gr. Sec'y. — General Grand Secretary  
GM — Grand Master  
Gr — Grand  
HP — High Priest  
Ill. — Illustrious  
IOOF — International Order of Odd Fellows  
KT — Knight Templar  
KYCH — Knight of the York Cross of Honor  
LL.D. — Doctor of Laws  
MEGHP — Most Excellent Grand High Priest  
MM — Master Mason  
MWGM — Most Worshipful Grand Master  
OES — Order of the Eastern Star  
PGM — Past Grand Master  
PhD — Doctor of Philosophy  
PM — Past Master  
RAM — Royal Arch Mason  
R&SM — Royal and Select Masters  
RW — Right Worshipful  
RWDDGM — Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master  
RWDep.GM — Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master  
RWGChap. — Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain  
RWJrGW — Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden  
RWSrGW — Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden  
W — Worshipful  
WB or W Bro. — Worshipful Brother  
WM or Wor. Mas. — Worhsipful Master  
32 — The highest degree earned in Scottish Rite  
33° — Honorary conferred degree of the Supreme Council