

Organizations of Shelbina

In the early years of Shelbina's history, lodges, clubs and organizations were most necessary to the culture of the community. Churches were not open every day and the only place for men to congregate in a social atmosphere was the saloon. So the coming of clubs and lodges received a big welcome in Shelbina.

I. O. O. F. (Odd Fellows)

The I.O.O.F., oldest lodge in Shelbina, was instituted May 16, 1860 as "Shelbina Lodge No. 142. Independent Order of Odd Fellows." The charter members were C. A. Fletcher, C. R. Hall, John Wood, J. F. Norris, J. M. White, N. Bates, H. M. Barlow, C. G. Brown, W. O. L. Jewett, J. P. Dixon and others.

In 1874 fire destroyed all of the records, but some of the older members put down some of the names of those active in the early days—Charles Miller, 1865, furniture dealer; John M. Shafer, 1866, lawyer; Newton Bates, no record; C. G. Brown, 1868, school teacher; C. A. Fletcher, 1874, carpenter; E. D. Hoselton, 1874, editor; H. J. Thomas, 1879, carpenter; W. O. L. Jewett, 1870, lawyer; W. S. Norris, 1874, no record; George Naeter, 1874, merchant; E. A. Daugherty, 1874, farmer; James Gwynn, no date, blacksmith; J. Sam Bates, no record; F. M. Harrison, no record; W. H. Rogers, no record; J. F. Norris, on charter; P. H. Stevenson, no record; H. M. Barlow, charter; W. L. McFarland, no record; J. W. Hickman, carpenter; B. Shilling, farmer; M. W. Oviatt, no record; J. W. Rae, carpenter; J. M. White, 1872; John Carnahan, 1871, farmer; O. G. Foster, 1872, carpenter; W. King, 1872, mason; S. G. Butler, 1872, carpenter; J. W. Barr, 1873, brick maker; A. H. Cook, no record; T. A. Martin, no record; W. H. Waven, lumber man.

The present membership of the lodge (1957) is 89.

A. F. & A. M. (Masons)

Shelbina Lodge No. 228 A. F. and A. M. was chartered on May 9, 1862, having been granted a dispensation in 1860 to form a lodge. The grand lodge meeting in St. Louis, May 27, 1862, contains a memorial from the Shelbina Lodge stating it had suffered by public misconduct of military authorities in a manner unworthy of the enlightened age in which we live and from acts of grossest vandalism on the part of military forces who robbed their lodge room of all its furniture, jewels, records and everything else of the slightest value.

The officers and members at the time of chartering were George T. Hill, Worshipful Master; James Jameson, Senior Warden; L. A. Holliday, Junior Warden; R. T. Sparks, Treasurer; Wm. M. Sparks, Secretary; C. C. Fuqua, Senior Deacon; Wm. Stanberry, Junior Deacon; E. M. Wood, Tiler; G. A. Jenks.

In 1864 the lodge reported 40 members and they were meeting in a rented hall. In 1867 at a cost of \$2,500 they built the third floor over a building on Chestnut Street and met there until 1955 when the new Temple on Center Street was built. In 1929 the Lodge purchased the second floor of the building in which they were meeting and converted it into a lounge, dining room and kitchen. In August, 1954 the Lodge began construction of the new Temple on South Center street. This modern, two story building 34x76 feet, of concrete blocks, contains a dining room which will seat 240 persons, kitchen and toilet facilities on the first floor and commodious quarters on the second and a large parking lot on the back of the Temple grounds. This new Temple was dedicated March 30, 1955. The present membership of the lodge is 164.

I.I.O.O.F.F. (Double I's)

The Double I Club came into being in March, 1886 when four women from the Kirksville mother chapter came to Shelbina for a meeting in the home of Mrs. Richard Bodine, who was the club's first president. The club's ten charter members were Mrs. Bodine, Miss Connely, Miss Minnie King, Miss Eleanor Dawson, Miss Lizzie Weaver, Mrs. Ella Connely, Miss Carrie Kelly, Misses Jennie and Lelia Parsons and Mrs. Nelia Sigler Kemper.

The programs during the first year were devoted entirely to history, geography and the study of the Bible.

The club started Shelbina's first circulating library when it purchased 15 books which were circulated at a charge of 5 cents a week.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Shelbina Chapter No. 99, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered on May 3, 1883 with these officers: S. Kennerly, High Priest; G. A. Jenks, King; I. D. Nelke, Scribe; J. H. Kennerly, C.H.; J. M. Bates, P.S.; C. H. Lasley, RAC; A. C. Bryan, M3V; Wm. T. Dean, M2V; J. Wm. Towson, M1V; and J. W. Sigler, Secretary.

At the convocation of the Grand Chapter of Missouri in 1953, Wm. Robert Howell was elected Grand High Priest, the first time the chapter had been honored by having one of its members chosen to preside over the state organization.

The Chapter now has a membership of 219.

REBEKAH LODGE

Oldest of Shelbina's women's organizations is the Rebekah Lodge, which was organized "Viola Degree Lodge No. 12. Daughters of Rebekah," in 1876. The first elective officers were S. G. Butler; N.G.; M. Shilling, V.G.; F. H. King, Secy.; N. Norris, Treasurer; F. Foster, RSNG; J. R. McEwen, LSNG; Wm. King, Warden; J. Norris, Conductor; B. Shilling, IG; J. Butler, RSVG; L. McClelland, LSVG.

In 1914 this Lodge became Viola Rebekah No. 129.

There are 101 members this (1957) year.

O. E. S. (Eastern Star)

July 7, 1900 a charter was granted for Shelbina Chapter No. 159, Order of the Eastern Star. Chapter was opened with the following officers and members present: Sister Anna Munch, Worthy Matron; Bro. N. E. Williams, Worthy Patron; Sister Annie Bodine, Assistant Matron; Sister Willie Dean, Secy.; Lizzie Lasley, Treasurer; Blanche Holmes, Conductress; Rose Williams, Assistant Cond.; Lizzie Dean, Marshal; Anna Fields, Chaplain; Florence MacKelvie, Adah; Franke Bailey, Ruth; Kate Dickerson, Esther; Josie Weaver, Electa; Laura Morgan, Warden; John Carnahan, Sentinel. Members present were Mary Morgan, Hattie Teachenor, Sallie Wainwright, Wm. Morgan, J. R. Morgan, D. L. Wainwright, John Munch, T. A. Bailey, O. K. Dickerson.

In 1905 the chapter had 78 members. During both World Wars, the chapter did Red Cross work. The chapter held its first meeting in the new Temple, Feb. 23, 1955. The present membership, April 1957, is 139. It includes 25 past matrons and 15 past patrons. The oldest member is Ida Rice Gibbons who was initiated May 12, 1911.

P. E. O.

P. E. O., Chapter U, was organized in Shelbina Sept. 30, 1901 by Mrs. Dora Halleck in the home of the Parsons sisters. Miss