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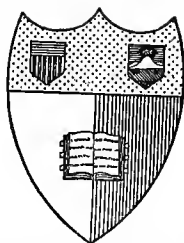
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HISTORY
of
COMMONWEALTH
LODGE

No. 409, F. & A. M.
THIRD MASONIC DISTRICT
NEW YORK



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REPORT
of the
COMMITTEE ON HISTORY
of
COMMONWEALTH LODGE

No. 409, F. & A. M.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., June, 1903.

*To the Wor. Master, Wardens, and Brethren of Commonwealth
Lodge, No. 409, F. and A. M.:*

Your committee appointed to prepare a history of Commonwealth Lodge, respectfully report as follows:

That in December, 1888, a committee consisting of James M. Fuller, John T. Palmer, E. J. Campbell, G. Frank E. Pear-sall, John W. Evans, and Theodore A. Taylor were appointed to publish a history of the Lodge. The committee at that time carefully and thoroughly examined the minutes of the Lodge up to that date, and faithfully endeavored to the best of their ability to glean from them all the important events therein transcribed. Since that time many important events have transpired which necessitated a revision of the history, carrying it forward to the present day, the undersigned having been appointed for that purpose. We have endeavored to present to the brethren a record of some of the deeds of Masonic work which have made old Commonwealth so dear to the hearts of our brethren, and so well known to Masons throughout the great jurisdiction of the State of New York.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THEODORE A. TAYLOR, *Chairman.*
EDWARD J. CAMPBELL,
JOHN W. EVANS.

HISTORY

of

COMMONWEALTH LODGE

No. 409

Commonwealth Lodge was established on the broad principles of love, charity, and benevolence; and, as the name signifies, "*the common good or happiness.*" The founders were men of liberal views, who in their previous Masonic connections had been under severe restraint owing to the illiberality of some of their associates, and, in erecting a new Lodge, they determined that "no pent up Utica should contract their powers." They laid the foundation broad and deep, and were exceedingly careful in the selection of building material, so that when the work was finally commenced, "there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building."

The incident that led to the organization of Commonwealth Lodge, was a division of sentiment among the members of Star of Bethlehem Lodge in regard to the payment of the funeral expenses of a deceased brother, a majority having decided not to pay the bill. The small minority were indignant at this action of a majority of their brethren, and paid the bill out of their own pockets, at the same time asking for their dimits, which were granted. The brethren who withdrew were: James M. Fuller, Benjamin Price, Joseph Stockbridge, Frederick W. Showering, Charles Weeks, Jr., William Howard, and Henry Smith. It is but just to state that a more liberal and charitable course has since characterized Star of Bethlehem Lodge, and

the brethren of the present generation would discountenance such action as unmasonic and uncharitable. The brethren who withdrew hoped to find a home in another Lodge more in harmony with their liberal views. Failing in this, they decided to organize a new Lodge; Bro. James M. Fuller, who was familiarly known as "Pop" Fuller, was the leading spirit in these initial movements. He obtained the following signatures to the Application for a Dispensation from the Grand Lodge: Robert D. McChesney, Brooklyn, No. 288; James M. Fuller and Benjamin Price, Star of Bethlehem, No. 322; Charles F. Hermance, Frank Webb, and John D. Ammerman, Polar Star, No. 245; William Howard, Joseph Stockbridge, Frederick W. Showering, and Henry Smith, Star of Bethlehem, No. 322; Robert B. Turner, Brooklyn, No. 288.

The following persons were named in the Application for the three principal offices: Robert D. McChesney, Master; Benjamin Price, Senior Warden, and James M. Fuller, Junior Warden.

In addition to the foregoing, the following names, which were subsequently added, constituted the Charter Members: Charles Weeks, Jr., Star of Bethlehem, No. 322; John J. Byram and James H. Clayton, Sylvan Grove, No. 275; James L. Smith, Brooklyn, No. 288.

The Application, dated May 20, 1856, endorsed and strongly recommended by Joppa Lodge, No. 201, met with strong opposition from other quarters, but was finally granted and a Dispensation issued May 25, signed by M.: W.: Joseph D. Evans, Grand Master.

The first meeting of the Lodge held under Dispensation, was on June 3, 1856, at the corner of Court and Montague Streets, with the following officers in their several places, viz.: R. D. McChesney, Master; Benjamin Price, Senior Warden; James M. Fuller, Junior Warden; Joseph Stockbridge, Treasurer; William Howard, Secretary *pro tem.*; Charles F. Hermance and Frank

Webb, Deacons. Seated in the East Wor. George B. Nicholl, Past Master of Excelsior Lodge, No. 195; the latter brother was a frequent visitor and a warm supporter of the Lodge, and often assisted in the work. The following named brethren were appointed a committee to draft By-Laws: Benjamin Price, James M. Fuller, and William Howard.

The first resolution adopted by the Lodge was a vote of thanks to Joppa Lodge for their unanimous recommendation of the petition. The first work of the Lodge was the initiation of Monroe F. Gale, on June 17, 1856. The By-Laws were adopted on June 24, and on July 15 Bro. Monroe F. Gale was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. On July 20 occurred the first death, viz., Robert B. Turner, a charter member. On July 29, with an exceedingly limited exchequer, the Lodge donated the sum of \$25 to benevolent purposes, thus fulfilling the proverb: "There is that giveth and yet enricheth; there is that withholdeth and yet impoverisheth."

In all their efforts the Lodge received the hearty support and cooperation of Joppa Lodge, whose members were frequent visitors, and assisted in the work. On August 5, Bro. John Hackett, of Joppa Lodge, presented Commonwealth with a set of columns.

On October 9, the Lodge took part in the dedication of Anglo-Saxon Hall, corner of Court and Montague Streets. Commonwealth rented the rooms of Anglo-Saxon Lodge, and continued to meet on every Tuesday at this place until 1866; they then met in Phoenix Hall, alternate Tuesdays and Saturdays, until April 28, 1868, when they moved to 317 Washington Street, which they fitted up at great expense, and where they continued to meet until January 23, 1894, when they removed to 153 Pierrepont Street, to what is now known as "Commonwealth Hall."

Aided and encouraged by her sister Lodges in this locality, Commonwealth persevered in the good work so auspiciously

begun, and on March 31, 1857, received from the Grand Master a congratulatory letter, which was read before the Lodge, but, unfortunately, was not spread on the minutes, and has since become mislaid or lost. On April 14, 1857, preparations were made for celebrating the first anniversary of the organization of the Lodge, and the procuring of the Warrant, which was now a foregone conclusion. The infant was about to lay aside its swaddling clothes and start forth on its mission of love as a full grown youth, with the motto of "Excelsior" inscribed on its banner, to achieve a success unparalleled in the history of Masonry in Brooklyn. A committee was appointed at this communication, consisting of Wor. Brothers McChesney, Price, and Fuller, and Brothers Byram and Howard, to make suitable arrangements for this event.

Application having been made to the Grand Lodge, a Warrant was issued by M.: W.: John L. Lewis, Grand Master, under the date of June 3, 1857, and on June 9 following a communication was held at the Lodge room for the purpose of having the Lodge duly constituted and the officers installed. Grand Master Lewis and his staff, with a large number of visiting brethren, were present, and at the close of these interesting ceremonies the brethren of the Lodge escorted the Grand Lodge Officers to the Pierrepont House, where a banquet was served in celebration of this important event.

Only four brethren have been elected Honorary Members of the Lodge since its organization. The first to receive this honor was Wor. Bro. George B. Nicholl, of Excelsior Lodge, No. 195, on the evening of October 13, 1857. Allusion has already been made to the valuable assistance and encouragement rendered by this brother. The next to receive this honor was R.: W.: E. W. Richardson, who was elected October 13, 1885, and on the evening of February 12, 1894, the name of R.: W.: Thomas Marchant, of Minerva Lodge, No. 792, was added to the list of Commonwealth's Honorary Members.

Bro. Marchant is present at every meeting of the Lodge, and has for many years been a true and loyal friend of Commonwealth.

In 1899 M.: W.: Wright D. Pownall, Past Grand Master, was also made an Honorary Member.

On November 10, 1857, Commonwealth voted to join the Brooklyn Masonic Board of Relief, and appointed as delegates Bros. Fuller, Howard, and Stockbridge.

The first public ceremonies participated in by Commonwealth were on July 5, 1858, when, in conjunction with Lexington Lodge, No. 310, they assisted in the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the Brooklyn Arsenal, which were performed by M.: W.: John L. Lewis, Jr., Grand Master.

It has been the custom of Commonwealth on the retirement of each Worshipful Master from office to present him with a Past Master's Jewel, or some other token, in recognition of faithful services rendered, the cost of the same being paid from the funds of the Lodge. The first to receive this was Wor. Bro. R. D. McChesney, the first Master of the Lodge, on July 13, 1858. The presentation was made by Senior Warden James M. Fuller.

At the annual election on December 21, 1858, Bro. James M. Fuller, who was known and recognized as the *father* of Commonwealth Lodge, was elected its Master for the first time. He was installed by Wor. George B. Nicholl, of Excelsior Lodge, No. 195, assisted by Wor. Bro. Adams, of St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 321. On January 24, 1860, Bro. Jos. Stockbridge, the first Treasurer of the Lodge, was presented with an elegant silver pitcher, in recognition of his faithful services as Treasurer, which office he continued to hold for several succeeding years.

On February 7, 1860, Wor. James M. Fuller was presented with a Past Master's Jewel, the ceremony being performed by Wor. Benjamin Price, the second Master of this Lodge.

The year 1861 will be remembered as one of the most eventful in the history of this as well as many other Lodges. When President Lincoln issued his first proclamation calling for 75,000 troops to put down the Rebellion, there were thousands of brave patriots ready to sacrifice their lives in defense of the Union; but to those who had families depending on them for support, it became a serious question with them as to whether they should leave their wives and little ones to starve during their absence. Commonwealth was among the first Lodges to solve this question, and at a regular communication held May 7, 1861, adopted the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, Several members of this Lodge having left us to join the army in defense of the flag of our Union, therefore, be it

Resolved, That, during their absence, the first three officers of the Lodge be empowered to visit the families of such of our brothers who have thrown themselves into the breach to sustain the Constitution and laws of our glorious Union, and render them such assistance as their circumstances may require.

Again, in 1898, when war with Spain was declared, a similar resolution was offered by R.: W.: J. T. Palmer, and unanimously adopted by the Lodge.

These duties were faithfully performed, and the hearts of the absent ones were gladdened and encouraged by the assurance that their loved ones at home were being cared for, and their wants attended to.

The first member of the Lodge whose name was inscribed on the *Crimson Roll of Honor* was Bro. John J. Byram, a charter member of this Lodge, who was killed at the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862. The fact was announced at a regular communication of the Lodge held on December 30, following, and suitable action taken in connection therewith.

Others of our brave brethren to offer their services to our beloved country in her time of need were Bro. August J.

Warner, who was severely wounded while in the discharge of his duty at the Battle of Gettysburg; Bro. Frederick H. Wight, who, for three years, served with the Ninth Regiment, N. Y. S. M., taking part in the battles of Balls Bluff, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, and Antietam, receiving a severe gunshot wound during the last named engagement. Bro. John M. Simonson, of the Twentieth Maine Volunteers, was engaged in more than a dozen important battles from 1862 to 1865; was wounded twice; while Bro. John W. Eason, whose record also shows no lack of fighting on the part of his regiment, the Fourteenth N. Y. S. M., sustained three wounds at the Battle of Chantilly. Bro. Robert C. Clark, too, was added to the list of sufferers. Bros. Charles A. Pike, Thomas W. Vaughan, John K. Brown, George F. Barker, Archibald G. Cook, Benjamin C. Bampton, William J. McKelvey, Creighton B. French, and Thomas Bishop also went bravely to the support of the flag, and although many of them saw three years of extremely active service, all returned safely to their homes.

In view of our recent conflict with Spain, when the North and South fought side by side, these chronicles seem like the record of a dream, a nightmare, which, please God, will not be repeated in the history of our country.

Of the brethren of Commonwealth who served during the Spanish-American War, only two have been recorded. Bro. R. J. Keating, who was on the "Indiana" at the time of the destruction of Cervera's fleet, and Bro. Alfred Bernstein, who has seen service both in Cuba and the Philippines, and who is still in the Navy.

At a communication held April 18, 1865, announcement was made of the assassination of President Lincoln, and resolutions were adopted by the Lodge expressive of the deepest grief and indignation at the sad and cruel event. As an expression of its

sorrow, the Lodge agreed to wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

In the early part of the year 1868, the great success the Lodge had attained warranted the brethren to believe that they were entitled to a "Home" of their own; accordingly, the Trustees were empowered to lease the upper part of the building at 317 Washington Street, which was furnished in such a manner as to leave nothing to be desired in the way of comfort and convenience. On the evening of April 28, 1868, the rooms were formally dedicated; the ceremonies being public, the wives and friends of the brethren were present in great numbers, and enjoyed the hospitality of the Lodge, the evening being spent in social entertainment, at the close of which a banquet was served in the large hall on the floor below.

The year 1870 marked a new era in the history of Commonwealth Lodge. This was the beginning of the interest awakened in its members in the great enterprise of the Hall and Asylum Fund, in which the Lodge subsequently bore such a conspicuous part. The first action taken by the Lodge was at a communication held June 7, 1870, at which time the Secretary reported that "he had procured, by order of the Lodge, a silver medal, to be deposited in the corner stone of the Masonic Hall, to be laid June 8, 1870, at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Twenty-third Street, New York. The medal had on one side the officers' names for 1870, and on the other the number of members at previous report (567) and the names of the Trustees."

The Lodge met in a body, and participated in the ceremonies of that important event.

One of the secrets of the success and continued prosperity of Commonwealth Lodge has been its efforts to improve the social, mental, and moral condition of its members. In addition to its many social entertainments, a series of lectures was inaugurated in 1870 that has been productive of great good. The

first of these was delivered on the evening of July 5, 1870, by Rev. Charles H. Hall, D.D., the subject being "Hiram Abiff, the Builder." There was a large gathering and an audience of deeply interested hearers. The subject was treated in a masterly manner, and evoked frequent applause. The lecture was afterward published in pamphlet form for general distribution.

A new organ was purchased in September of this year, and on December 6 a grand entertainment was held, several of the Grand Lodge officers being present. M.: W.: John H. Anthon, Grand Master, delivered a lecture on the "Duties of Masons;" it was an interesting and instructive lecture, and was listened to with great attention. R.: W.: Bro. Morgan presided at the organ, and added much to the pleasure and entertainment of the occasion.

On May 16, 1871, W. Bro. Joseph J. Couch, afterward Grand Master, gave a very interesting lecture on the subject, "What is Masonry?" It was treated in a very able manner, evincing deep research and a thorough knowledge of the subject. He had an appreciative and attentive audience.

Lectures were also delivered by Wor. Bro. H. L. Bartlett, Kings County Lodge, No. 511; Wor. Hy. C. Cooper, of Benevolent Lodge, No. 28; Bro. Stephenson, of Lodge No. 51, Philadelphia; Bro. Robert Anderson, of Altair Lodge, No. 601; Bros. S. S. Conant and A. G. Constable, of Commonwealth Lodge; M.: W.: J. Edward Simmons, R.: W.: James E. Morrison and Rev. Dr. Wild.

On March 3, 1885, M.: W.: Robert Morris, Past Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky, and Poet Laureate of the Grand Lodge of New York, delivered a very interesting lecture before the Lodge, entitled "Poetry of Freemasonry." This Worthy Brother has since passed from this earth, and ascended to the Celestial Lodge above, where he was doubtless greeted by the Muses whose aid he had so often invoked. Several years pre-

vious to this occasion, M.: W.: Bro. Morris visited Commonwealth Lodge, at which time he wrote the following epigram to R.: W.: Bro. Fuller:

TO BROTHER JAMES M. FULLER.

In Brooklyn town, it hath been said,
 There's many a moral teacher,
 And men will crowd on Sabbath day
 To hear their *Parson Beecher*;
 But as to that, though I confess
 I've heard full many a duller,
 Although the *church* be crowded *full*,
 The Lodge is always *Fuller*.

Your schools are famous for their rules,
 And for their schoolmarms' beauty
 And I don't doubt that girls and boys
 Learn fast and do their duty;
 But though much learning, sense and wit
 They drive in with a ruler,
 And fill their pupils brimming *full*,
 Freemasonry is *Fuller*!

Your folks can mix as good a drink
 As ever man imbibed;
 They have a knack—I don't know how—
 It can not be described.
 I've been there, and my thirst was quenched
 Upon a half a dollar,
 But though I seemed to be so full,
 There always was a *Fuller*.

But lest you think this all a jest,
 I'll make my song more solemn,
 And draw my figures, fresh and clear,
 From out the sacred volume;
 Let's hope that when his life is past
 He'll prove so good a ruler,
 That though the courts of Heaven are *full*,
 They'll find a room for *Fuller*.

Commonwealth Lodge has not only taken care of its own needy and suffering brethren and their families as well as members of the fraternity beyond its jurisdiction, but has never turned a deaf ear to the appeals of suffering humanity from whatever source they came. On October 10, 1871, a committee of fifteen was appointed to raise funds for the relief of the sufferers of the great Chicago fire.

The sum of \$800 was raised by this committee, which was forwarded to the Mayor of Chicago by the Master of the Lodge. During the terrible yellow fever scourge at Memphis and other parts of the South; again in 1881, when thousands of homes in Michigan were rendered desolate by fire; also in 1888, when the yellow fever caused such suffering at Jacksonville, Fla., and on all similar occasions the Lodge has made liberal donations.

On June 24, 1871, the Lodge visited Albany, and participated in the ceremonies of the laying of the corner-stone of the Capitol.

On the evening of December 17, 1872, a presentation of a gold watch was made to Bro. Jonathan Jones, who had faithfully served the Lodge for seven years as Secretary, and who later in the evening was unanimously reelected for the eighth time.

The presentation was made by Bro. Henry S. Knapp, in an address which has been considered by all who heard it as one of the best efforts in that line ever pronounced in the Lodge. It was an annual communication, and to show the interest then taken in the affairs of the Lodge it is only necessary to state that it is on record that 294 votes were cast for Master. This was the first election of Bro. Henry S. Knapp to that office.

Bro. Jones lived but a short time after the event above recorded, and on March 25, 1873, the Lodge was called upon to mourn his loss. His death was announced to the Lodge on that evening, and Rev. Charles H. Hall, D.D., rector of Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn, delivered a touching eulogy on the virtues of

the deceased brother, which was feelingly supplemented in an address by Bro. S. S. Conant, as follows:

“ In one of the most beautiful of the parables through which the Divine Master imparted to the world the sublime lessons of Christianity, we read of the humble-minded guest, who took the lowest place at the feast; to whom the Master said, ‘ Friend, go up higher.’

“ To whom might these words been more fittingly applied than to our late brother, in whose life were illustrated all those moral qualities which render Masonry desirable among men, and who was always found ready to serve, to labor, and to wait? Obedient to every call of duty, honorable in all dealings, upright and regular in deportment, true in friendship, and in all social and domestic relations without blame, he was one who could view without dread the approach of the King of Terrors, and in the summons to another world hear the approving voice of the great Master saying, ‘ Friend, come up higher.’

“ There is no need to dwell on the life and character of our departed brother.

“ For more than seven years an officer of this Lodge, he lived in the presence of all his brethren, and was known and read of all. His fidelity, fervency, and zeal in all good works of Masonry, ask for no labored statement or encomium; they are a part of the history of Commonwealth Lodge; and while the memory of them intensifies our sense of the loss we have sustained, we can still rejoice in the contemplation of the good man gone to his reward, to whom the Master has said, ‘ Well done, good and faithful servant.’

“ To us and to his bereaved and stricken family, to whom we tender our heartfelt sympathy, there is indeed consolation in the thought that our sorrow and theirs is not for him, but for ourselves.

“ *We* mourn the loss of the true friend and faithful brother, *they*, of the affectionate husband and father; while from the

heights to which his spirit has ascended, we seem to hear an echo of the summons which he has answered, to us at once a warning and a call, 'Friend, come up higher.'"

On April 22, 1873, a Lodge of Sorrow was held in memory of the brethren deceased previous to this date.

The Lodge room was so completely draped in the emblems of mourning that a person would think that he was in the realms of the dead. In the center of the room was placed a catafalque surrounded with floral decorations. Upon the pall were inscribed the following names: Leonard J. Ham, Daniel Paul, E. W. Pearsall, William H. Van Pelt, M. P. Gaddis, Edwin A. Ellis, F. B. S. Snell, Samuel Brown, Emons A. Gould, Allen T. Bellar, Peter C. Garrison, Morris James, James Van Namee, Joseph Pentland, Jonathan Jones, J. Newton Howe.

The officers that assisted were: R.: W.: Bro. Henry S. Knapp, Master; Bro. John W. Reid, S. W., and S. S. Conant, J. W. As the Wardens advanced and recited their parts, flowers were deposited upon the catafalque. The Master laid upon it a cross of laurel. After each of these recitals, one of the other officers advanced and extinguished a light. Bros. D. O. Ferris, then Chaplain, delivered the eulogy, and Charles E. Dudley presided at the organ, and conducted the musical part of the service. The choir was that of the Holy Trinity. Bros. George G. Martin was S. D., and Edwin Selvage S. M. of Ceremonies. Bro. William Jennings, Jr., was stationed in an outer room and tolled the "Low Twelve" bell as the Master gave an electric signal. A code of signals had been so arranged that each officer knew by a certain number that he was to render his part. This peculiar occasion has been chronicled as one of the most perfectly conducted sorrow services that has ever occurred within the pale of Masonry.

Since that time the Lodge has been called upon to mourn the loss of many of its well beloved members.

At the stated communication held January 27, 1891, the brethren were shocked to learn of the death of R.: W.: James M. Fuller, who died very suddenly on the previous Sunday afternoon. The funeral services were held at his late residence on Thursday evening, and on Friday afternoon the Masonic services were held at Greenwood Cemetery.

For thirty-five years Bro. Fuller had been one of the most zealous and indefatigable workers in the quarries of Masonry, and his loss was deeply deplored not only by the brethren of Commonwealth Lodge, but by all who knew him.

To honor his memory it was resolved that special memorial services be held, and the committee appointed to arrange for the same reported on the evening of March 24, 1891, that they had selected the evening of April 16, 1891, as an appropriate time to hold said services, and that they had applied to Bedford Lodge, No. 574, F. and A. M., for the use of their room in the Aurora Grata Cathedral for that evening, and that they had received in reply from Bedford Lodge the following letter :

“THEODORE A. TAYLOR, ESQ. :

“DEAR SIR AND BRO. : In accordance with a resolution adopted by Bedford Lodge, No. 574, F. and A. M., at the regular communication on Thursday evening, 19th inst., we beg to tender Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409, F. and A. M., the use of our rooms in Aurora Grata Cathedral for Thursday evening, April 16, 1891, for the purpose of holding memorial services to the memory of the late R.: W.: James M. Fuller, and we would further say that Bedford Lodge is glad to be in position to aid in honoring the memory of that good and faithful brother in Masonry, whose devotion to the Craft should be held up as a shining example to many Masons of the present day.

“Fraternally yours,

“W. H. DONNELL, *Secretary.*”

This letter was received and ordered spread in full upon the minutes, and the committee were instructed to answer the letter, thanking Bedford Lodge for its generous action, and kind expressions of sympathy and regard for our late Bro. Fuller.

The exercises consisted of appropriate music by the Dudley Buck Quartette, prayer by the Rev. Dr. Bradley, and a most eloquent and feeling eulogy by the Rev. Warren C. Hubbard, Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

M.: W.: William Sherer, Past Grand Master, presided.

As a further mark of respect, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That at each communication of the Lodge, the Secretary shall call the roll of officers, to be answered by the Senior Deacon, and also the name of R.: W.: James M. Fuller, to be answered by the Master, "At rest from his labors."

A memorial album was prepared by a committee appointed by the Lodge and presented to his widow, in response to which the following letter was received from Mrs. Fuller:

"MESSRS. JOSEPH STOCKBRIDGE, THEODORE A. TAYLOR, G. FRANK E. PEARSALL, JOHN W. EVANS, RICHARD WAYCOTT, AND E. J. CAMPBELL:

"GENTLEMEN: Permit me to express to you and through you to the brethren of Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409, F. and A. M., the deep sense of thankfulness and gratification which your loving remembrance of my dear husband has called forth.

"I beg you to accept my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful 'In Memoriam,' which shall henceforth be treasured as a fitting testimonial of your regard and esteem for him who served you so long and faithfully, and of your tender sympathy and condolence for myself and family who, with you, appreciate and revere the character of him who is 'At rest from his labors.'

“No word of mine can add a single leaflet to the laurel wreath with which you have crowned him in your heart of hearts. No loving word of praise from me can amplify the tribute to his worth to which you gave publicity in the eloquent eulogy which voiced your estimate of the founder of Commonwealth Lodge as a Mason, as a brother, and as a man. But it may be deemed fitting if I supplement your words of approbation with a simple testimony to his worth in our home life.

“The simplicity of a child was yoked with the tender thoughtfulness of a man; unostentatious as was his bearing among his fellows in the world, so was his demeanor within the circle of his loved ones at home.

“Thoughtful of their welfare as a first consideration, he went out and in, fulfilling the duties which God had laid upon him during all the long years he was spared to us, with a faithfulness which never flagged, a tenderness which never ceased.

“When in late life the cares of business and the undeserved disasters of commercial life were crowded thick upon him, no word of fretful repining, no complaint of fickle Fortune’s frown, escaped his lips.

“The same smile was ever for his loved ones; the same quiet, unremitting and devoted tenderness was master still. Devotion to duty was the keystone of the arch which sums his character. No sacrifice was considered too great, if the welfare of those he loved demanded it.

“Assured of the justice and necessity of any measure, he gave his best efforts to its accomplishment.

“I can not but feel with you that when the Recording Angel closed the record of his life’s history, the refrain rang out upon the air of heaven, ‘He has fought a good fight, henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of life which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give at his appearing.’

“Memory now goes hand in hand with hope. It shall be, per-

haps, but a little while, and then a glad reunion. Till then, I pray you will bear the consciousness that your loving words and actions have lightened the burden of our grief, and I beg you to accept the lasting gratitude of myself and family for your tender sympathy and devotion.

“ With affectionate regard, I remain,

“ Sincerely yours,

“ JULIA A. FULLER.

“ New York, April 20, 1891.”

On December 17, 1891, Bro. George Reock passed away. Masonic services were held over his remains at Aurora Grata Cathedral, after which he was laid to rest in Evergreens Cemetery.

Bro. Reock had been for many years a faithful officer of the Lodge, and at the regular communication, held January 12, 1892, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Our Bro. George Reock, after serving this Lodge as Tiler for nearly a quarter of a century, has passed from the scenes of earth to the new life that lies beyond the veil, be it

Resolved, That in the life and long service of Bro. Reock we recognize a faithful officer, and realize that we have lost one who was peculiarly fitted to perform the duties that devolved upon him; always at his post of duty, affable and courteous alike to members and visiting brethren.

Resolved, That a memorial page be set apart, and that these resolutions be entered in full upon the minutes.

Resolved, That, as a Lodge, we tender to the widow of our deceased brother our sincere sympathy in her great bereavement.

On February 8, 1893, Wor. : Richard Waycott, a Past Master of this Lodge, died, after a lingering illness, and on February 10 the Lodge assembled in funeral procession and proceeded to

his late residence, where the ceremonies of the Order were conducted in due form. His interment was in Greenwood Cemetery.

Earnest and zealous in the discharge of every duty which came to him in the various offices which he so creditably filled in the Lodge; of a kind and genial nature, Bro. Waycott held a warm place in the hearts of his brethren, and his early death was deeply regretted, and a source of profound sorrow to all who knew him.

On December 20, 1898, R.: W.: Henry S. Knapp died in Mexico. He was buried with due Masonic honors by Estrella de Sonora Lodge, No. 232, Mexico, which courteous and fraternal action was duly acknowledged by Commonwealth Lodge.

As already stated, Bro. Knapp had been very active in Masonic work before ill-health compelled him to leave this part of the country, and his death was regretted by all, especially by those brethren who knew him personally in the days of his zeal and activity.

R.: W.: Edwin Knowles was Master of this Lodge in 1888. Of a fine and commanding appearance, a trained and polished orator, his rendition of the Ritual of the Order was always a source of pleasure and delight to all those brethren whose good fortune it was to hear him. He died on April 14, 1902.

R.: W.: John T. Palmer became a member of Commonwealth Lodge on December 10, 1872, and from that time until his death, on April 22, 1902, his interest in Masonry never flagged; punctual in his attendance at every meeting of the Lodge, earnest and sincere in all his actions, his death has removed a familiar and prominent brother from our midst. Esteemed and honored by his friends in life, he is mourned by them in death.

His funeral services were held at the Church of the Atonement on April 26, and his remains were interred in Greenwood Cemetery with due Masonic honors.

M c K I N L E Y

On October 1, 1901, a communication was received from the Grand Master announcing the death of Bro. William McKinley, late President of the United States, when on motion that a committee be appointed to draft suitable resolutions, the Master appointed R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor, R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight, and R.: W.: J. W. Evans, who later reported the following resolutions, which were received and ordered spread in full upon the minutes:

Whereas, Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409, F. and A. M., in common with the brethren throughout the length and breadth of our beloved country, has been greatly bereaved by the death of our brother, William McKinley, late President of the United States; be it

Resolved, That we desire to place on record our sincere appreciation of his many noble traits, his great ability as a statesman, his patriotic and manly qualities as a citizen, his lovable and tender attributes as a husband, a man, and a Mason, faithful to every trust reposed in him, at the same time expressing our abhorrence of the dastardly manner of his "taking off" by the hands of an assassin, an act which has plunged our country into the deepest grief and sorrow;

Resolved, That our faith is supreme, that out of this terrible calamity to our nation, there will arise a sentiment of closer friendship, binding us together in stronger bands of fellowship, strengthening our belief that God is our Father, and all men our brothers;

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread in full upon the minutes.

THEODORE A. TAYLOR,
FREDERICK H. WIGHT,
JOHN W. EVANS,

Committee.

On October 24, 1874, a petition was received from Wor. Bro. L. W. Beasley, James M. Rowan, and others, to form a new Lodge, to be known as "Covenant." The petition was endorsed by Commonwealth, and the "petitioners were recommended to the Grand Lodge as being worthy to receive a Dispensation." Sixty-seven members withdrew to organize Covenant Lodge. As an evidence of the good will existing between these Lodges, it is only necessary to state that the *Three Great Lights* used by Covenant Lodge at the present time were presented to Covenant by the members of Commonwealth.

On January 26, 1875, notice was received from M.: W.: Ellwood E. Thorne, Grand Master, that the dedication of Masonic Hall, in New York City, would take place on Wednesday, June 2, and requesting a donation for the dedication fund. In response to this request, the Lodge donated the sum of two hundred dollars. On the day appointed the Lodge met as a body, and, after participating in the very interesting ceremonies, wound up the events of the day by going on an excursion up the Hudson.

On September 7, 1878, the Lodge was convened to take action in regard to the death of Wor. Bro. Robert D. McChesney, its first Master. His loss was deeply felt, for he had proved himself an able and efficient officer, a true and worthy brother, beloved by all who knew him, and a bright and shining light in the Fraternity.

March 25, 1880, was another gala night in the history of the Lodge. The occasion was the official visit of the Grand Master M.: W.: Charles Roome to the Third Masonic District, under the auspices of our Lodge. He was accompanied by his staff, consisting of:

- R.: W.: William T. Woodruff, D. G. M.,
- “ “ Horace S. Taylor, S. G. W.,
- “ “ Frank R. Lawrence, J. G. W.,

- R.: W.: Charles S. Arthur, G. Treasurer,
“ “ James M. Austin, G. Secretary,
“ “ Rev. Charles H. Hall, G. Chaplain,
“ “ J. Edward Simmons, G. Marshal,
“ “ William H. White, G. Sword Bearer,
“ “ F. H. Wight, S. G. Deacon,
“ “ T. Pratt, J. G. Deacon.

The Grand Master and staff were received by R.: W.: Robert Black, D. D. G. M., and, after a very pleasant evening of speech-making and social converse enjoyed by the large gathering of brethren, repaired to the hotel adjoining the Lodge room, and were entertained at a banquet provided by the members of Commonwealth Lodge.

This event took place during the administration of Wor. John T. Palmer, who presided at the banquet. After the good things had been disposed of, R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight, who, at the invitation of Wor. Master, was acting as toastmaster, addressed the Grand Master, and in a very graceful speech expressed the gratification felt by the members of Commonwealth Lodge at the presence of the Grand Master, and concluded his remarks by proposing his health, which was feelingly responded to by the Grand Master. Other distinguished brethren present also addressed the assemblage.

In March, 1881, a fair, known as the Organ Builder's Fair, was held in Trinity Chapel, Brooklyn. A spirited contest took place at this fair over a Jewel set with a piece of the Egyptian Obelisk (set up in Central Park the previous year), which was to be awarded to the most popular Lodge in Brooklyn by vote of those present. Commonwealth having won the prize, it was presented to the Lodge on the evening of March 22, 1881, by Rev. Charles H. Hall, D.D., with appropriate remarks, and received on behalf of the Lodge by the Chaplain, Rev. William Short.

On June 14, 1881, the Lodge celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary by a banquet at the Hotel Brighton, Coney Island, to which about one hundred and fifty members of the Lodge and their friends sat down. There were present a number of distinguished invited guests, among whom were: M.: W.: Horace S. Taylor, Grand Master; M.: W.: Joseph J. Couch, Past Grand Master; M.: W.: Joseph D. Evans, Past Grand Master; R.: W.: James M. Austin, Grand Secretary; Rev. Charles H. Hall, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, and an Honorary Member of Aurora Grata Lodge, and Rev. William Short, Chaplain of Commonwealth Lodge; Wor. Bro. L. W. Beasley, R.: W.: J. M. Riley, Alonzo Slote, Wor. James S. Leeds, and Wor. Thomas Marchant, all prominent members of the Fraternity, are mentioned among those present.

On this occasion, two of the only three surviving charter members of the Lodge, viz.: "Father" J. M. Fuller and Bro. Joseph Stockbridge, who were present, were specially honored. Bro. Fuller was introduced by Wor. Master John T. Palmer, who presided on the occasion; Bro. Fuller gave a brief history of the Lodge during its twenty-five years' existence, and closed his remarks by proposing the health of "M.: W.: Joseph D. Evans, who, as Grand Master, granted the Lodge its Dispensation twenty-five years ago."

M.: W.: Horace S. Taylor, Grand Master, responded to the toast, "The Grand Lodge of the State of New York, the legitimate source of Masonic authority and power throughout the State." He congratulated the Lodge upon its strength and prosperity, and spoke of its noble origin, beginning in an act of charity.

M.: W.: Joseph J. Couch, Past Grand Master, spoke of the great social and moral work of the Order, and of the significance of the name of the Lodge—Commonwealth—which, as a native of the old Bay State (Massachusetts), was very expressive to

him, and indicative of the common spirit of Fraternity that pervaded the Order.

Bro. Lucien Knapp, of Commonwealth Lodge, responded in glowing terms to "The City of Brooklyn," the home of Commonwealth, of its advantages as a place of residence, a city of homes, with its churches, Sunday schools, places of education, etc., and finally of its Masonic strength.

"The Masonic Fraternity, which recognizes the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, and whose grandest teaching is universal benevolence," brought out a vigorous, telling speech from Dr. Charles H. Hall, who spoke entirely in keeping with the sentiments of the toast. He said that the Masonic Fraternity recognized that man without God was like chaff before the wind, and in that sense it was a profoundly religious organization. There was intrusted to the 70,000 Masons of New York State a platform for all people to stand on. He concluded by urging the Masons to practice still more faithfully reverence for God and love for Man.

The last toast of the evening was "The Ladies, God bless them," which was wittily and eloquently responded to by Wor. James S. Leeds, of Altair Lodge, No. 601.

Too much credit can not be given to Wor. John T. Palmer, the Master, whose indefatigable efforts did much to make this a successful and enjoyable occasion, worthy to be remembered as one of the most memorable events in the history of the Lodge. The Master was ably assisted by the following committee: James M. Fuller, F. H. Wight, T. B. Linington, T. A. Taylor, Edwin Selvage, J. W. Evans, I. M. Bon, O. K. Buckley, Jr., J. R. Tyler, J. W. Cooper, Lucien Knapp, John Barbarie, J. A. Templeton, and J. B. Goldey.

On the evening of March 30, 1897, the following resolution was offered by R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of fifteen be appointed to arrange for the proper celebration of the fortieth anniversary of Commonwealth Lodge, and that the first three named shall be an executive committee, to carry out the details.

In accordance with this resolution, the Master appointed the following named brethren to constitute said committee: Theodore A. Taylor, J. W. Evans, Abel Crook, E. J. Campbell, J. A. Bennet, William J. McKelvey, J. T. Palmer, J. Stockbridge, J. W. Cooper, O. K. Buckley, Jr., Edwin Knowles, L. H. Quackenboss, F. H. Wight, G. F. E. Pearsall, and W. S. Beckley.

The committee, after mature deliberation, decided that the celebration should be in the form of an outing and banquet, to be held at the Long Beach Hotel, Long Island, on the afternoon and evening of June 26, 1897.

The weather was all that could be desired—it was truly “a balmy day in June.” In the evening the banquet was served, and was a very satisfactory affair; every one was in the best of spirits, and during the participation was entertained by vocal selections by the Aurora Grata Quartette.

The invited guests were: R.: W.: Wright D. Pownall, D. G. M.; R.: W.: E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary; R.: W.: Rufus T. Griggs, Commissioner of Appeals; R.: W.: R. J. Kenworthy, D. D. G. M., Third District; R.: W.: F. P. Morris, President Board of Trustees of the Hall and Asylum Fund; R.: W.: James McCullough, Grand Steward; W.: Thomas Marchant, Honorary Member, and the Rev. Otho F. Bartholow.

The following toasts were proposed and responded to in appropriate addresses:

“The Grand Lodge of the State of New York.”

“All your strength is in your union,
All your danger is in discord.”—“*Hiawatha*.”

Responded to by R.: W.: Wright D. Pownall.

“Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409, F. and A. M.”

“This is my birthday, and a happier one was never mine.”—*Longfellow*.

Responded to by R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight.

“Yearning for Light.”

“Light seeking light doth light of light beguile,
So ere you find where light in darkness lies
Your light grows dark by losing of your eyes.”

—*Love's Labor Lost*.

Responded to by Bro. John L. Hill.

“The Masonic Fraternity: Its Past, Present, and Future.”

“We came into this world like brother
And brother, and now let's go hand in
Hand, not one before the other.”

—*Comedy of Errors*.

Responded to by Bro. Lucien Knapp.

“Woman.”

“O woman! lovely woman! nature made thee to
temper man; we had been brutes without you. Angels
are painted fair to look like you.”

Responded to by Rev. Otho F. Bartholow.

Addresses were also made by R.: W.: E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary, and R.: W.: Rufus T. Griggs.

In the early part of the year 1876, R.: W.: Henry S. Knapp, who had just closed his administration of three years as Master, and two as District Deputy Grand Master, was compelled by ill-health to leave this section of the country and take up his residence in California.

R.: W.: Bro. Knapp was not only one of the most zealous of Masons, but one of the best Ritualists the Third District had ever seen, consequently his enforced absence was regretted by all, and when, on the evening of October 25, 1881, he paid a visit to his old home, he was received with open arms by his brethren of Commonwealth Lodge.

On his entrance into the Lodge he was welcomed in a most cordial and happy manner by the Master, Wor. John T. Palmer.

The R.: W.: Brother, during his active service in the Lodge, had made a great reputation for himself as a remarkably happy and effective speaker, and, in his response to the Wor. Master's address of welcome, did not fail to impress his hearers that time had not tended to dim his powers in that line.

After the Lodge closed, a banquet was served in honor of the distinguished guest, and an enjoyable evening spent in speech-making, story-telling, and reminiscences, to the delight of those present.

The whole affair was well conducted by the Master, Wor. John T. Palmer.

Commonwealth Lodge has always been lavish in her expenditures of money for testimonials to retiring officers and others in recognition of their distinguished services. On January 11, 1876, R.: W.: Henry S. Knapp was presented with a set of diamond studs by M.: W.: Joseph J. Couch, on behalf of the Lodge. On January 22, 1878, a Past Master's Jewel was presented to Wor. F. H. Wight, the interesting ceremony being performed by Bro. S. S. Conant.

On January 20, 1880, a Past Master's Jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. T. B. Linington by Wor. J. T. Palmer, on behalf of the Lodge. On June 29, 1880, the Lodge presented to R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight, who had just been appointed District Deputy Grand Master, a Jewel and apron appropriate to the office.

On January 24, 1882, Wor. Bro. J. T. Palmer was presented with a Past Master's Jewel, the presentation being made by Past Master F. H. Wight. On December 18, 1883, a life size portrait of Wor. Bro. Theodore A. Taylor, handsomely framed, was presented to him, this being the close of his first term as Master. Past Master J. T. Palmer was selected to make the presentation, and the gift as well as the accompanying ceremonies were an entire surprise to Bro. Taylor. On January 29, 1884, another and more valuable testimonial awaited him in the gift of an elegant gold watch and chain by the Lodge, Wor. Bro. G. F. E. Pearsall being designated to make the presentation. Bro. Theodore Linington, who for fourteen years had faithfully performed the duties of Treasurer, was the next one to receive recognition for his services. On December 23, 1884, the Lodge presented him, through Bro. S. S. Conant, with a silver pitcher and tray. On January 19, 1886, Wor. Bro. Taylor, who two years previous had received at the hands of Bro. Pearsall a gold watch and chain, returned the compliment by presenting that Brother, on behalf of the Lodge, with a beautiful Past Master's Jewel. On the evening of January 15, 1889, Wor. Edwin Knowles was presented with a gold watch and chain by R.: W.: G. Frank E. Pearsall, on behalf of the Lodge. On February 17, 1891, Wor. John A. Bennet was presented with a watch and chain by R.: W.: John W. Evans, on behalf of the Lodge.

Wor. Richard Waycott being taken ill during his term of office, and subsequently dying, the Lodge presented his widow with a suitable testimonial in recognition of his worth and services. On February 21, 1893, R.: W.: James Huggins presented to Wor. U. T. Fackenthall a silver tea service, in behalf of the Lodge. On February 19, 1895, Past Master W. T. Bather received a watch and chain. R.: W.: E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary, made the presentation speech in his usual happy

manner. On February 2, 1897, Past Master E. J. Campbell, Jr., was presented with a silver tea service, R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor speaking for the Lodge. On January 31, 1899, Wor. Wm. Bamber was presented with a diamond ring by R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight, in behalf of the Lodge. On February 6, 1900, Wor. L. H. Quackenboss received a watch and chain, Bro. Abel Crook being the spokesman on this occasion, and on the evening of January 27, 1903, a similar testimonial was presented to Wor. A. L. Madison.

Testimonials had also been presented to Wor. Bros. Nathaniel Gladding, James M. Rowan, and Lester W. Beasley, on their retirement from office.

On November 25, 1884, Most Worshipful Grand Master William A. Brodie and staff visited the second and third Masonic Districts under the guidance of R.: W.: C. W. Carpenter and R.: W.: Sydney F. Walker. They met in Commonwealth Lodge room, and there were present on the occasion a large number of distinguished brethren, among whom were R.: W.: Frank R. Lawrence, D. G. M.; R.: W.: John W. Vrooman, Senior Grand Warden; R.: W.: Edward M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary; R.: W.: George H. Raymond, Grand Lecturer; Right Wor. Brothers Schlick, Wight, Griggs, and others. Addresses were made by M.: W.: Grand Master William A. Brodie, M.: W.: Joseph J. Couch, M.: W.: Robert Morris, Past Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky; Right Wor. Bros. Frank R. Lawrence, Vrooman and Ehlers.

In 1885 was the beginning of a series of events that was to place Commonwealth Lodge foremost among her sister Lodges of the State in the great work of lifting the burden of debt from the Fraternity in connection with the Hall and Asylum Fund. The debt at this time was nearly half a million dollars. November 24, 1885, the Lodge was summoned to take action on the appeal of M.: W.: Frank R. Lawrence, Grand Master, for assistance in paying the debt of the Hall and Asylum Fund. Common-

wealth Lodge had never been behind her sister Lodges in responding to appeals from the Grand Lodge; she fully realized the magnitude of this gigantic undertaking, and was not only the first Lodge in the State to assume her share of the burden, but her per capita tax, *voluntarily assumed*, was larger than that of any Lodge on Long Island. By a resolution unanimously adopted on this occasion, the Lodge pledged itself to pay \$2,500—which was nearly \$500 in excess of the amount apportioned as her share of the debt, and at the same time appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions. This committee consisted of the following brethren, viz.: S. Brooks, J. A. Bennet, J. W. Cooper, A. Corson, Felix Evans, James M. Fuller, A. Gilchrist, J. W. Evans, E. F. Gordon, T. A. Preston, J. T. Palmer, G. F. E. Pearsall, J. W. Palmer, S. Robinson, J. Stockbridge, E. Selvage, J. A. Templeton, G. W. Van Buskirk, F. H. Wight, R. Waycott, and Theodore A. Taylor. The committee made a thorough canvass among the members of the Lodge, and raised, by voluntary subscriptions, the sum of *two thousand dollars*, five hundred of which amount was paid by Wor. Bro. John A. P. Fisk, five hundred dollars additional was voted by the Lodge, making the sum total \$2,500, which was paid over to the Grand Master March 30, 1886.

On April 13, 1886, M. W. Grand Master Frank R. Lawrence, with his staff, visited the Lodge, and was cordially welcomed in a few well chosen remarks by W. John W. Evans; Grand Master Lawrence responded in an eloquent manner, thanking Commonwealth Lodge for its prompt response to his appeal in behalf of the Hall and Asylum Fund, and for its noble and earnest efforts in aid of this great undertaking.

One of the most earnest, indefatigable and successful workers in this enterprise was Wor. Bro. Theodore A. Taylor. As a reward for his efforts, his friends obtained for him the appointment of District Deputy Grand Master of the Third Masonic

District, and on June 29, 1886, R.: W.: James M. Fuller surprised Bro. Taylor by presenting him with the warrant containing his appointment, signed by M.: W.: Grand Master Frank R. Lawrence.

The Lodge being called off for the summer, nothing was done by him in his official capacity until the following autumn. In the mean time, a committee was appointed by the Lodge to provide the Brother with suitable regalia for his position as D. D. G. M. On the evening of September 21, 1886, the committee made their report, and delivered the regalia to Worshipful John W. Evans, whose pleasant duty it was to present the same to R.: W.: Bro. Taylor. This was done in a fitting and an appropriate manner, the speaker referring in glowing terms to the labors and successful efforts of Bro. Taylor in the past, and bidding Godspeed in the new field of labor which he was about entering. Bro. Taylor gratefully accepted the gift as a renewed evidence of the confidence and esteem of his brethren, and of the hearty support they had given him in every undertaking.

A large number of distinguished visitors had come together on this occasion to congratulate Bro. Taylor on his appointment, and to offer him their aid and encouragement. It is estimated that there were over three hundred present. Bergstein's Quartette discoursed sweet music, and addresses were made by M.: W.: Joseph J. Couch, R.: W.: E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary; Right Wor. Frederick A. Burnham, Chief Commissioner of Appeals, and others. No Brother ever entered upon any undertaking under more favorable and promising auspices. The one great purpose which he had in view was to assist the Grand Master in his effort to reduce the great burden of debt connected with the Hall and Asylum Fund. He entered at once upon the work, and in his official visitations to the various Lodges of the District was always accompanied by a large delegation, consisting of the officers, past officers, and brethren of his Lodge;

on many occasions there were as many as *sixty* members of Commonwealth present, *never* less than fifteen.

The hearty and earnest support rendered him by these brethren in the great work which he had undertaken was not only a source of encouragement to Bro. Taylor, but aided him very materially in bringing the work to the successful issue finally attained, which fact was gratefully acknowledged and duly appreciated by the R. W. Brother. This record would not be complete without giving special credit to Bro. Joseph Stockbridge, a charter member of the Lodge, who missed but one of these visits throughout the year.

But few of the Lodges in the Third District had paid any part of their quota on the Hall and Asylum Fund debt, and a number had paid nothing. Bro. Taylor and his delegation met with a cordial reception at every Lodge they visited; and at each visit he urged upon his brethren to make one *grand, earnest* effort to pay their quota at *once*, and thus relieve themselves of all future obligations in the matter.

The brethren caught his zeal and enthusiasm, and went to work in earnest. Individual subscriptions flowed in, and at the close of his administration as District Deputy, *every* Lodge in the District had paid its full quota, and was released from the *fifty cent tax*; this being the *first* District in the State to pay its full quota of the debt. It thus became the *Banner District*, and Commonwealth in turn became the *Banner Lodge*. The full amount paid by the *thirty* Lodges of the District was \$25,000.

The last official visit made by the Right Wor. Brother was to his own Lodge, on May 10, 1887. A royal reception awaited him. Wor. Bro. J. W. Evans received the distinguished visitor with the honors due the occasion. It was like the return of a successful warrior from the field of battle, crowned with victory and honor. Bro. Taylor could say without egotism, "*Veni, Vidi,*

Vici." The Grand Master and his staff were present, and Commonwealth Lodge room was filled to overflowing; upward of five hundred were present, including the invited guests. The room was tastefully arranged, the altar being placed just in front of the East, with the columns on either side, over which was an arch of roses extending from the top of one column to the other, while the columns were beautifully festooned with smilax, etc. Addresses were made by the distinguished guests, and to Commonwealth Lodge were accorded the honors she had so fairly earned. Right Wor. Bro. Taylor, the hero of the hour, bore his honors with his usual becoming modesty, and at the close of the services sat down with the numerous invited guests and brethren of his own Lodge to a bountiful supper, where greetings were exchanged, and all made merry.

The last and final efforts made by Commonwealth Lodge in aid of the Hall and Asylum Fund, were in connection with the Ladies' Masonic Fair, held in November and December, 1887.

A number of ladies, the wives and relatives of the brethren of Commonwealth Lodge, organized themselves into the "Commonwealth Ladies' Fair Association," for the purpose of cooperating with the "Ladies' Masonic Fair Association," of New York. The following were the officers of this Association, viz.: President, Mrs. John W. Evans; Vice-President, Mrs. Edwin Knowles; Treasurer, Mrs. Theodore A. Taylor; Secretary, Mrs. Edwin Selvage.

On November 22, a committee was appointed by the Lodge to assist the Ladies' Association; this consisted of Brothers Frank Purcupile, Right Wor. Theodore A. Taylor, Right Wor. G. F. E. Pearsall, Wor. J. T. Palmer, Bro. Edwin Knowles, Edwin Selvage, G. L. Gillon, Samuel Smith, J. W. Palmer, R. Waycott, S. Robinson, E. Skinner, E. A. Deveau, J. Macbeth, J. Stockbridge, Right Wor. J. M. Fuller, John A. Bennet, William S. Beckley, and Wor. J. W. Evans.

Among the many valuable and interesting articles donated to Commonwealth Lodge for the Association, was an elegant and costly quilt, presented by Mrs. Eleanor Burton, Past Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star. This was disposed of for a large sum.

Several weeks were spent in preparation for this great event, and each vied with the other in their endeavors to make it a success. Most of the ladies and gentlemen from Commonwealth Lodge Ladies' Fair Association and committee were daily in attendance at the Masonic Hall, in New York, during the three weeks following November 28, and the total sum of \$1,472.82 was realized from Commonwealth table, which was paid to the Grand Master.

A number of valuable and interesting articles were purchased by members, or voted to Commonwealth Lodge. These were in turn presented to members of the Lodge on different occasions. The first of these was an elegant embroidered Past Master's Lamb Skin Apron, presented to Wor. Bro. Evans on the evening of November 29. It was a great surprise to the brother. On the evening of December 20 a presentation of these several gifts was continued. The first was a beautiful Master's Apron, which was presented by the hand of Past Master Evans to the newly elected Worshipful Master, Brother Edwin Knowles. A Past Master's Jewel, which was voted at the Fair to the most popular Past Master in the Third Masonic District, was presented to Past Master James M. Fuller by Right Wor. Bro. Pearsall, with appropriate remarks. Bro. Fuller retaliated by presenting Bro. Pearsall with a beautiful Grand Steward's Apron, purchased at the Fair by the Lodge.

A life size portrait of R.: W.: T. A. Taylor, set in an elaborate frame, was purchased by the "Commonwealth Ladies' Fair Association" at the Fair, and presented by them to Commonwealth Lodge; Wor. Bro. Evans received the gift on be-

half of the Lodge, in a pleasant and graceful manner, expressing his high appreciation of the gift, and the motive that prompted it.

In the beginning of 1888, Most Worshipful Frank R. Lawrence, G. M., desired to make an unofficial visit to the Third District, and Commonwealth Lodge was accorded the honor of receiving him.

The evening of January 24 was set apart for that purpose. The Grand Master was received by the Wor. Master, Edwin Knowles, in an eloquent manner, giving expression to the pleasure felt by all at the presence of this well-beloved and distinguished craftsman.

The Grand Master, in his usual happy and effective manner, acknowledged the cordiality of his reception, and expressed his delight at being once more among his brethren of the Banner District.

The evening had originally been set apart for the purpose of presenting to Wor. Bro. John W. Evans, who had just retired from the East, a Past Master's Jewel.

The Grand Master made the presentation speech, according to the Wor. Bro. great praise for the work he had accomplished. Wor. Bro. Evans accepted the Jewel in a speech expressing his gratitude to the brethren of the Lodge for their kindness and consideration shown to him at all times, and the honor of receiving this testimonial at the hands of M.: W.: Frank R. Lawrence.

Many of the Grand Lodge officers were present, and thirty-one Masters and Past Masters of the Third District.

On February 13, 1888, a committee of Commonwealth Lodge visited Masonic Hall, and presented to the Grand Lodge Library a life size portrait of Grand Secretary Ehlers, which was purchased by this Lodge at the Fair. The pleasant duty of presenting the gift was assigned to Wor. Bro. Evans, who performed it in his usual graceful manner. It was received with thanks

accompanied by kind expressions by R.: W.: Herman G. Carter, Grand Librarian.

Two years elapsed before the entire debt of the Fraternity in the State was extinguished, and in March, 1889, the Grand Master issued an encyclical letter officially announcing that the debt had been paid in full, and designating Wednesday, April 24, 1889, as a day to be set aside to commemorate the event.

On the evening of that day, Commonwealth Lodge, in conjunction with the other Lodges of the Third District, assembled in the First Baptist Church.

After the invocation by the Rev. A. J. Canfield, D.D., the encyclical letter of the Grand Master was read by R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor, P. D. D. G. M. This was followed by vocal and instrumental music, under the direction of Bro. A. S. Caswell. The vocal music was furnished by the St. Cecile and Euphonie Quartettes. Addresses were then made by the Rev. Warren C. Hubbard, Past Master of Altair Lodge; M.: W.: Joseph J. Couch, Past Grand Master; Rev. Charles H. Hall, D.D., Past Grand Chaplain, and others.

On March 3, 1891, a communication was received from Grand Master Vrooman stating that the corner-stone of the Masonic Home and Asylum would be laid at Utica in the following May. On motion, R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor, R.: W.: G. F. E. Pearsall, and Bro. O. K. Buckley, Jr., were appointed a committee by the Master to make arrangements for the proper participation of the Lodge in this important ceremony. At the meeting of March 17, 1891, the committee reported that the corner-stone would be laid on May 21, 1891, and that M.: W.: Frank R. Lawrence would deliver the oration. The committee also recommended that a special car be chartered for the use of the members of the Lodge. The recommendation was adopted, and the committee authorized to charter a car, and make any additional arrangements that might be deemed neces-

sary for the pleasure and comfort of the brethren. This plan was carried out by the committee in a very satisfactory manner, and on the evening of May 20, 1891, a large number of enthusiastic members met and proceeded by special train to Utica, where they arrived the following morning, and took part in the ceremonies of the day.

When the building was completed and about to be dedicated, a meeting was called of all the Masters of the Third Masonic District, when a plan was adopted by which all the Lodges of the Third District should join forces in order that a showing could be made worthy of the name and fame of the "Banner District" of the State. In accordance with this determination, the brethren of the various Lodges met on the evening of October 4, 1892, and, accompanied by a band of music, proceeded to Albany by the night boat, thence by special train to Utica. The return from Utica was by special train of Pullman sleeping coaches, which arrived at the Grand Central Depot in New York at seven o'clock on the morning of October 6. The trip was declared by all to have been a most delightful and enjoyable one in every way.

At this time an opportunity was afforded the Lodge to select a room in the Home which should bear its name. Room No. 21, first floor, was selected and handsomely furnished by the Lodge, when it was christened "Commonwealth Room," which name it will always bear.

Commonwealth Lodge has on several occasions been honored by the Grand Lodge in the selection of certain of her members for important positions in the Grand Lodge.

The first to be so distinguished was R.: W.: James M. Fuller, who was appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 1863, and in the following year Grand Steward; R.: W.: James M. Rowan was appointed to the position of District Deputy Grand Master in 1873; he was followed by R.: W.: Henry S.

Knapp, who held the office of District Deputy Grand Master for the years 1874 and 1875.

R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight was appointed Grand Steward in 1879, and in the two following years held the office of District Deputy Grand Master. At the present time he holds the office of Representative of the Grand Lodge of the State of Wisconsin. R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor was appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 1886, and on the evening of November 13, 1888, received his commission as Representative of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, and in June, 1887, the Lodge was again highly honored by the selection of R.: W.: G. Frank E. Pearsall to fill the office of Grand Steward. Bro. Pearsall had been one of the most zealous supporters of M.: W.: Frank R. Lawrence in his efforts to extinguish the debt of the Hall and Asylum Fund, and was Chairman of the Committee of Commonwealth Lodge that had had the work in hand. He entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office with the same zeal and energy which had characterized his predecessors, who had, without exception, reflected credit upon their Mother Lodge.

In 1891 R.: W.: John W. Evans was appointed Grand Steward by M.: W.: William Sherer, Grand Master. In 1897 R.: W.: Edwin Knowles was appointed Representative of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. In the same year, R.: W.: J. W. Palmer was appointed Representative of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. In 1902 R.: W.: Samuel Crook was appointed Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and in 1903 M.: W.: Elbert Crandall selected him to serve as his Grand Marshal. In the year 1902 R.: W.: William Bamber was appointed Representative of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island.

The evening of May 24, 1892, having been determined upon as a suitable time to tender a reception to M.: W.: William Sherer, Grand Master, a vast number of brethren assembled to

do him honor. Upon his arrival at the Lodge, he was received with a heartiness which must have convinced him that he was very near to the hearts of the members of "Old Commonwealth."

His welcome was as sincere and earnest as it was hearty, for the brethren knew that in receiving him they were doing homage not only to the Grand Master, but also to an old friend and well beloved brother.

He was accompanied by the following Grand Officers:

M.: W.: J. W. Vrooman, P. G. M.

R.: W.: J. W. Richardson, Grand Marshal.

" " L. Love, D. D. G. M., Third District.

" " J. L. Drummond, D. D. G. M., Second District.

" " F. A. Burnham, Ch. Com. Appeals.

" " W. H. Andrews, Com. Appeals.

" " J. W. Evans, Grand Steward.

" " R. M. Morgan, Grand Steward.

" " J. Stewart, Trustee, Hall and Asylum Fund.

" " J. E. Morse, Trustee, Hall and Asylum Fund.

" " J. F. Collins, P. D. D., Fourth District.

" " P. L. Schenck, P. D. D., Third District.

" " M. Grimes, P. D. D., Third District.

" " R. T. Griggs, P. D. D., Third District.

" " W. H. Sutton, P. D. D., Second District.

" " H. J. Carter, Grand Librarian.

" " Breunich, D. D. G. M., Twenty-eighth District.

" " A. A. Butler, D. D. G. M., Fifth District.

During the evening addresses were made by M.: W.: Bro. Sherer, M.: W.: Bro. Vrooman, R.: W.: Bro. Collins, R.: W.: Bro. Burnham, R.: W.: Bro. Stewart, and R.: W.: Bro. Love, and a number of choice and appropriate selections were rendered by the Stella Quartette.

In 1893, the Lodge determined to move from 317 Washington Street to 153 Pierrepont Street, our present quarters, and on

December 26, on motion of R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor, "that a committee of eleven be appointed to make arrangements for the dedication of the new rooms," the Master appointed Bros. Joseph Stockbridge, F. Evans, E. J. Campbell, W. Bamber, F. H. Wight, T. A. Taylor, J. W. Evans, E. Knowles, J. A. Bennet, U. T. Fackenthall, and G. F. E. Pearsall. Bro. Taylor was selected to act as chairman.

At the regular communication of January 30, 1894, the following letter was read:

"85 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

"MR. THEODORE A. TAYLOR:

"DEAR SIR AND BRO.: Having for several winters past occasionally visited Commonwealth Lodge, and appreciating its hospitality, I hand you herewith check for \$25 as a contribution for a clock for your new and beautiful room.

"If I was not a resident of another State, and member of a Lodge there, I should apply for membership in No. 409.

"With best wishes for you and 'Commonwealth,' I am,

"Yours truly,

"B. C. EASTON."

The letter was received and spread in full upon the minutes, and the thanks of the Lodge were sent to Bro. Easton.

The clock now hangs upon the wall of the Lodge room.

On this same evening, R.: W.: Bro. Taylor, Chairman of Committee on Dedication, reported that the Grand Master would dedicate our room on the evening of February 27.

At that time (February 27, 1894) the Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge entered the Lodge room, and announced that the Grand Master and staff were in waiting to enter and dedicate the room. They were admitted, received with honors, and performed the ceremony of dedication in due and ancient form.

The following distinguished Craftsman took part in the ceremony:

- M.: W.: F. A. Burnham, Grand Master.
 R.: W.: R. T. Griggs, D. G. M.
 “ “ J. W. Richardson, S. G. W.
 “ “ J. Huggins, J. G. W.
 “ “ A. A. Butler, G. Treasurer.
 “ “ Townsend Scudder, S. G. D.
 “ “ J. Miller, J. G. D.
 “ “ E. W. Richardson, G. Chaplain.
 Bro. Stockbridge, Bearer of the Holy Scriptures.
 M.: W.: J. J. Couch, P. G. M.
 “ “ William Sherer, P. G. M.
 R.: W.: G. F. E. Pearsall, Architect.
 “ “ J. Metzka, Grand Sword Bearer.
 “ “ Marion Grimes, Grand Standard Bearer.
 “ “ Bro. Elwood, Grand Steward.
 “ “ Bro. Scudder, Grand Steward.
 “ “ J. Hoole, Grand Tiler.

In addition to the above, there were present some thirty-odd Masters and Past Masters of the different Lodges in the District, and as many other members of the Craft as could possibly crowd into the room.

After the ceremony a banquet was served, and responses were made to the following toasts by the brethren named:

“The Grand Lodge of the State of New York,”

By M.: W.: Frederick A. Burnham, G. M.

“Freemasonry,”

M.: W.: Frank R. Lawrence.

“The Third Masonic District,”

M.: W.: William Sherer.

“ Our Home at Utica,”

R.: W.: E. M. L. Ehlers.

“ Our Guests,”

R.: W.: James G. Janeway.

“ Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409,”

R.: W.: Rufus T. Griggs.

The ceremony of dedication was conducted in a very dignified and impressive manner; the banquet was all the heart of man could desire, and the speeches were soul-stirring and inspiring.

All in all, it was a most delightful occasion, and will always stand in the history of Commonwealth Lodge as one of its most successful functions.

On the evening of October 3, 1899, R.: W.: Wright D. Pownall, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, was elected an Honorary Member of this Lodge, and a committee, consisting of R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor, R.: W.: William Bamber, R.: W.: J. T. Palmer, R.: W.: G. F. E. Pearsall, and W.: William Bather, was appointed to procure a certificate of Honorary Membership to be presented to the M.: W.: Brother.

On the evening of December 12, 1899, M.: W.: Bro. Pownall presented himself at the Lodge, and was received by the Master W.: L. H. Quackenboss in an appropriate address, after which he was accorded the honors due his exalted station.

R.: W.: Bro. Taylor then arose, and in his usual touching and masterly manner presented to our honored Grand Master the certificate of Honorary Membership in behalf of the Lodge, which had been procured by the committee appointed for this purpose.

In accepting the certificate, the Grand Master spoke feelingly of the cordial relations which had always existed between

him and the members of Commonwealth Lodge, and of the esteem in which he held them both as individuals and as a Lodge. He then thanked the Lodge, and expressed in his inimitable manner his appreciation of the high honor which had been conferred upon him by Commonwealth Lodge. R.: W.: E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary, then addressed the Lodge in his usual pleasing and entertaining manner.

At the regular communication of December 12, 1899, a communication was received from M.: W.: Wright D. Pownall, Grand Master, recommending the observance of the centenary of the death of Bro. George Washington upon the 31st of December by attending Divine worship, and the Secretary was directed to confer with the Rev. O. F. Bartholow and invite him to preach a sermon to the Lodge on that evening. The invitation was accepted by Bro. Bartholow, and on the evening of December 31, 1899, the Lodge members, accompanied by the members of their families, assembled at the Janes M. E. Church, of which Bro. Bartholow was pastor, and listened to an eloquent memorial address in memory of Bro. George Washington.

On January 2, 1900, a vote of thanks of the Lodge was tendered to Bro. Bartholow and the Trustees of the Janes M. E. Church for the use of the church and Sunday school room, and also for the services of the organist and choir who rendered the music upon the occasion.

Commonwealth Lodge has had and has many sons of whom she is justly proud, and among them all there is none in whom she has greater cause to rejoice than in Theodore A. Taylor, whose record for earnest, zealous work, not only for Commonwealth Lodge, but for the Order at large, stands unexcelled.

So when it was announced on the evening of May 8, 1900, that he had been unanimously elected Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, the announcement was received with pleasure and gratification—pleasure that the

Lodge should have been so honored, and gratification that this worthy brother should be selected for this distinguished office.

By order of the Lodge, a committee, consisting of G. F. E. Pearsall, William Bamber, Walter Smith, Abel Crook, and H. V. Schnitzspan, was appointed to procure a testimonial to be presented to R.: W.: Bro. Taylor as a visible and tangible expression of the pride and satisfaction which the Lodge feels in having Bro. Taylor thus justly rewarded for his many years of faithful service.

The committee procured a handsome silver service, and on the evening of December 4, 1900, it was presented to R.: W.: Bro. Taylor, in behalf of the Lodge, by Bro. Abel Crook.

M.: W.: Charles M. Mead, Grand Master; R.: W.: Elbert Crandall, Deputy Grand Master; M.: W.: E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary, and many other officers were present. Congratulatory letters were received from many prominent Masons in the State, and a beautiful basket of flowers was also presented to Bro. Taylor by Wor. Bro. Shaw, in behalf of Mistletoe Lodge, No. 647. A banquet followed at the Brooklyn Club.

Bro. Taylor has been unanimously reelected each succeeding year since 1900, and at the present writing is still our honored Grand Treasurer.

The evening of February 18, 1902, was made memorable by a series of presentations. First, Bro. Abel Crook, in behalf of the Lodge, presented each of the Past Masters with a very handsome Past Master's Apron, which were accepted on behalf of the Past Masters by R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight in a neat and appreciative address. Then followed a presentation by R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor, on behalf of the Lodge, of a watch and chain to R.: W.: Samuel Crook, who had just retired from the East. Then as a further evidence of the good will of the brethren, and their appreciation of duty well performed, R.: W.: Frederick H. Wight, on behalf of the Lodge, presented Bro.

E. J. Campbell, our worthy Secretary, with a set of sterling silver in recognition of his long and faithful service extending over a period of twenty-six years, which was accepted by Bro. Campbell in his usual earnest and expressive manner.

In April, 1902, a charter was granted by the Legislature of the State of New York to the Brooklyn Masonic Guild, authorizing said Guild to acquire, construct, maintain, and manage a hall, temple, or other building within the Borough of Brooklyn, New York City, for the use of Masonic Bodies and other fraternal associations and benevolent organizations, and for social, benevolent, and charitable purposes, and generally to promote and cherish the spirit of brotherhood among the members thereof.

And out of the funds derived from rents or income thereof, or other sources, to acquire, construct, establish, maintain, and manage, or contribute to the maintenance of, an asylum, a home or homes, a school or schools, for the free education of the children of Masons, and for the relief, support and care of worthy and indigent Masons, their wives, widows, and orphans, and to render direct relief to worthy and indigent Masons, their wives, widows, and orphans.

The following named brethren constitute the present officers of the Guild: President, R.: W.: Wilmon Whilldin; Vice-President, R.: W.: Theodore A. Taylor; Treasurer, R.: W.: Charles A. Tonsor; Secretary, Bro. William H. Cochran; Chairman of Executive Committee, Bro. Abel Crook; and Wor.: Frank W. Robbins, W.: John E. Sparrow, R.: W.: Robert J. Kenworthy, R.: W.: Benjamin V. W. Owens, W.: Thomas W. Franklin, and W.: George Freifeld, Trustees.

Under the leadership of the above named able corps of officers, very satisfactory progress has been made in the collection of funds for the erection of the proposed Guild Hall.

Voluntary donations have been received from various Lodges and from individual members of the Craft, among which may be

mentioned the bequest of our late brother, W.: William A. Stuart, Past Master of Lafayette Lodge, and a member of Orion Lodge, who died on September 30, 1902, leaving a will whereby he bequeathed the sum of \$100,000 to the Brooklyn Masonic Guild.

In 1902 it was determined by the Guild to hold a Masonic Fair, for the purpose of adding to the funds already in hand, and the Lodges of the District were invited to participate in the work, which invitation met with a hearty response not only from the Lodges of the Third District, but also from the Lodges of the Second District, who aided very materially in bringing the Fair to a successful issue. Committees were appointed, consisting of the wives, sisters, and daughters of the members of the various Lodges; meetings were held, and finally the Fair was opened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on the evening of April 13, 1903, by M.: W.: Elbert Crandall, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, accompanied by the Grand Lodge officers.

The ladies appointed on the committee for Commonwealth Lodge were: Mrs. Theodore A. Taylor, Chairman; Miss Taylor, Mrs. Abel Crook, Miss Crook, Miss Bessie Crook, Mrs. E. J. Campbell, Miss Campbell, Miss Jessie Campbell, Miss Edith Campbell, Miss Sadie Campbell, Mrs. J. A. Bennet, Mrs. E. J. Campbell, Jr., Mrs. A. L. Madison, Mrs. L. H. Quackenboss, Mrs. M. S. Brown, Mrs. G. W. Van Buskirk, Mrs. F. J. Purcupile, Mrs. H. G. Eskuche, Mrs. F. C. Callen, Mrs. George Howland, Mrs. I. B. Ketcham, Mrs. William S. Beckley, Miss Beckley, Mrs. W. H. Rankin, Mrs. C. A. England, Miss Sadie Johnston, Mrs. W. R. McGuire, Miss I. Henderson, Miss Edna Evans, Misses Anna and Emma Schmitt, Mrs. A. R. Taylor, Mrs. A. M. Barton, Miss Howland, and Miss Marion Smith.

This committee, aided by the brethren of the Lodge, entered

into the work with such energy and enthusiasm that at the close of the Fair, Commonwealth was enabled to hand to the Treasurer of the Guild \$2,400 as her share of the \$16,000 which was the net amount realized at the Fair.

The members of Commonwealth Lodge have every reason to be proud of its record. Its growth and prosperity have been remarkable; starting with fifteen charter members, it had at the end of the first year forty-two. From its organization in 1856 to the present time, a period of forty-six years, it has made and affiliated one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four Master Masons, and its present membership is six hundred and thirty-nine.

The spirit of Fraternity and Brotherly Love has characterized its every action. Its inner history is replete with deeds of charity, benevolence, and loving kindness toward the widow, the orphan, and the needy brother, and as we come to the end of this brief history, every member of the Lodge can truly say, "I am glad that I am a Mason, and I am proud of my membership in Commonwealth Lodge."

In Memoriam

AMERMAN, JOHN D.

ARNOLD, JACOB.

ARNOLD, GEORGE J.

BLANKLEY, JOHN J.

BETHEL, GEORGE A.

BALDWIN, HENRY W.

BOGERT, GEORGE E.

BOISE, ETHAN E.

BROWN, SAMUEL.

BELLER, ALLEN T.

BARTLETT, JOHN K.

BRUSH, THOMAS C.

BLAKELY, JOHN H.

BIRMINGHAM, JOHN J.

BENÉ, WILLIAM E.

BOUTON, GEORGE H.

BATES, FRANK P.

BAYLIS, SAMUEL H.

BURKE, MARTIN.

BRIGGS, LAFAYETTE F.

BENNETT, AUGUSTUS.

BURLINGAME, SAMUEL L.

BLANCHARD, JAMES A.

BROWN, EMERY.

BROWN, WILLIAM F.

BROWN, RAINNEY.

BARWOOD, THOMAS R.

BOITEL, SAMUEL M.

BLISS, H. D.

BARKER, GEORGE F.

BAXTER, WILLIAM C.

CLAYTON, JAMES H.

CASSERLEY, CHRISTIAN J.

COX, CHARLES W.

CLEMENTS, JAMES H.

CUMMINGS, WILLIAM.

CROOK, LURAD H.

CROMWELL, WILLIAM H.

COTTON, SAMUEL.

CLARK, FRANKLIN T.

COLES, FREDERICK H.

CHUMASERO, R. C.

CONSTABLE, A. G. A.

CARMAN, JOHN.

CARTER, HY. V.

CARR, REUBEN P.

COOK, JOHN E.

CORSON, ALEX. D.

CAREY, GEORGE L.

CONANT, SAMUEL S.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| CAMERON, FRANK B. | FOOS, ANDREW J. |
| CORNELL, THOMAS J. | FOX, THEODORE J. |
| CARHART, WILLIAM H. | FREDERICK ERNST. |
| CLARK, ROBERT C. | FIELD, JOSEPH S. |
| CHAPMAN, JAMES. | FULLER, JAMES M. |
| COVAL, CHARLES E. | FEARN, HERBERT. |
| DUSENBURY, GEORGE R. | FISK, JOHN A. P. |
| DWYER, THOMAS J. | FORD, WILLIAM F. |
| DANIELS, ISAAC C. | GALE, MONROE F. |
| DEMPSTER, HENRY. | GILDERSLEEVE, W. H. |
| DAVIS, JOHN. | GULLETT, WILLIAM. |
| DUDLEY, CHARLES E. | GARLAND, FRANCIS. |
| DONNE, HENRY. | GOULD, EMMONS A. |
| DILLONO, WILLIAM L. | GILL, CEPHAS M. |
| DOUGLAS, GEORGE B. | GADDIS, M. P. |
| DEADMAN, JAMES. | GOLDEY, JAMES B. |
| DEHEN, JOHN. | GARRISON, PETER C. |
| DOWNES, JESSE T. | GRISWOLD, CHARLES E. |
| DEVEAU, EDWARD A. | GOODWIN, DAVID. |
| DAVIS, DAVID H. | GARDNER, NATHANIEL. |
| DEVERILL, THOMAS R. | GALLISON, E. N. |
| DUBEY, CHARLES A. | |
| ENGEMAN, WILLIAM A. | HANDLEY, BENJAMIN. |
| EDWARDS, JOHN. | HAM, LEONARD J. |
| ELLIS, EDWIN A. | HULL, DAVID W. |
| ELLIS, HENRY C. | HILLYARD, WILLIAM. |
| ELFORD, GEORGE. | HOWE, J. NEWTON. |
| EGAR, JAMES J. | HAYES, THOMAS. |
| EICHBAUER, FREDERICK. | HOHN, CHRISTIAN. |
| EASON, JOHN W. | HORTON, ISAAC O. |

HUNT, FRANCIS W.
 HUNT, WILLIAM H.
 HARTMAN, HENRY.
 HIGGINS, ROBERT.
 HOWELL, WILLIAM P.
 HARD, JOHN R.
 HASELTON, JEREMIAH.

IRWIN, GILBERT.

JONES, JONATHAN.
 JOHNSON, HENRY S.
 JAMES, MORRIS.
 JONES, WILLIAM H.
 JONES, ELI.
 JOHNSON, SEWIN.
 JAMES, PHILIP C.
 JOHNSON, HENRY S.

KING, SILAS H.
 KELLY, SR., THOMAS T.
 KNAPP, HENRY S.
 KNOWLES, EDWIN.

LASHER, DANIEL.
 LOYDD, JAMES OSCAR.
 LANG, JOHN C.
 LEARNED, AMOS F.
 LACEY, CEPHAS S.
 LISZKA, GEZA C.

LOTT, ELBERT.
 LAWRENCE, WILLIAM A.
 MCCHESENEY, ROBERT D.
 MEAD, J. W.
 MANNING, ROBERT.
 MCREA, J. S.
 MCCROTTY, ALEXANDER.
 MCCREERY, JOHN.
 MACDOUGAL, WM. H.
 MANDEVILLE, STEPHEN.
 MICKLAM, WILLIAM M.
 MANNING, WILLIAM.
 MARSHALL, GEORGE.
 MCCROSKEY, ROBERT.
 MILLER, HENRY G.
 MORGAN, WILLIAM A.
 MCNAUGHTON, WM.
 MOORE, EDWARD.
 MCGRAYNE, JOHN.
 MOUNT, JOHN F.
 MASON, GEORGE E.
 MORRISON, RD.
 MCCLOSKEY, E.
 MCCABE, JOHN.
 MENZIES, HENRY D.
 MINIS, JR., PHILIP H.
 MONFORT, A. W.
 MCKELVEY, WILLIAM J.
 MINER, J. SPENCER.
 MORRIS, HENRY O.

NEWMAN, ANDREW J.	RHODES, WILLIAM P.
NIGHTINGALE, L. B.	RIGGS, EDWARD.
NEED, JOHN.	RUMMELL, FRANK H.
NOE, WILLIAM H.	REOCK, GEORGE.
NEIDECKER, GEORGE W.	REBHANN, FREDERICK W.
	REED, ROWLAND.
OWEN, WILLIAM H.	REEVES, JAMES D.
OUTWATER, JACOB.	
OTIS, BENJAMIN W.	SHOWERING, FRED. W.
	SMITH, WILLIAM H.
PENTLAND, JAMES M.	STEBBINS, JOHN H.
PRITCHARD, JOSEPH.	SHAIGHT, HENRY J.
PETERS, M. B.	STORGESS, E. J.
PENTLAND, JOSEPH.	SWAIN, CHARLES E.
PAUL, DANIEL.	SELVAGE, J. WATSON.
PEARSALL, E. W.	SNELL, F. R. S.
PINKERTON, JAMES.	SHIPPIE, ABBOTT J.
PENNY, HENRY B.	SCOTT, JOSEPH.
PHRANER, ROBERT M.	SAMPLE, WILLIAM J.
PARCELL, HARVEY.	SCHLUETER, GUSTAVE.
PARKER, JAMES.	SHAW, WILBUR.
PRICE, JUSTIN F.	SAUNDERS, JOSEPH.
PERRY, CHARLES F.	STOW, BENJAMIN J.
PIKE, CHARLES A.	SCUDDER, JAMES M.
PENDLETON, HENRY F.	STEPHENSON, WM. W.
PALMER, JOHN T.	SAWYER, JOHN H.
	SMITHSON, JOHN T.
ROSS, EDWIN.	STANLEY, LEONARD Y.
RITCHIE, DAVID.	SMITH, SAMUEL.
RUNYON, ROBERT.	SEWELL, GEORGE.
REGAN, THOMAS.	SAVAGE, HENRY.

SIMPSON, DAVID S.
 SIMS, JASPER N.
 SKIRVING, JOHN H.
 SMITH, HIRAM F.
 SEIMERS, GEORGE J.
 SERRA, M.
 SPENCER, J. MINER.
 SCUDDER, EPH.

TURNER, ROBERT B.
 TYLER, CHARLES.
 TOSHACK, WILLIAM.
 TAYLOR, JOHN.
 THOMPSON, JAMES A.
 TRELOAR, WILLIAM.
 THATCHER, THOMAS.
 TYLER, JOHN R.
 TICE, WILLIAM R.
 THOMAS, WALTER G.
 TOWNS, FRANK A.
 TAPP, FINLAY W.
 THOMAS, ROBERT.
 TRUNDY, A. S.

VAN GILDER, JEREMIAH.
 VAN PELT, WM.
 VAN NAMEE, JAMES.
 VEEDER, A. G.

VAN DER WILLIGAN, P.
 VAN DUYN, GEORGE G.

WEST, GEORGE L.
 WAKEFIELD, THOMAS.
 WHITNEY, THOMAS C.
 WILLIAMS, WILLIAM.
 WILDMAN, M. K.
 WHEELER, DAVID R.
 WRIGHT, THOMAS D.
 WHITE, WILLIAM.
 WELLS, EDWARD H.
 WESTON, DANIEL.
 WASHBURN, W. L.
 WILLDIGG, WILLIAM.
 WAYCOTT, RICHARD.
 WATERS, JOHN.
 WAGNER, JOHN F.
 WOODWARD, JOHN B.
 WRIGHT, WILLIAM S.
 WILLIAMSON, C. G.
 WILLIAMS, JOHN S.
 WRIGHT, G. F. J.
 WALSH, RALPH.
 WODELL, JOSEPH.

YATES, GEORGE R.
 YATES, JOHN.
 YOUNG, WILLIAM H.

Officers of
Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409, F. & A. M.

1903.

EDWARD W. WRIGHT, M.D.....	<i>Master</i>
ABEL CROOK	<i>Senior Warden</i>
ARTHUR L. WRIGHT.....	<i>Junior Warden</i>
R. W. THEODORE A. TAYLOR.....	<i>Treasurer</i>
E. J. CAMPBELL.....	<i>Secretary</i>
P. O. Box 161, Brooklyn, N. Y.	
H. G. LOCHMULLER.....	<i>Senior Deacon</i>
G. H. DE W. MARTYN.....	<i>Junior Deacon</i>
H. C. BADGLEY.....	<i>S. M. C.</i>
P. LOESER	<i>J. M. C.</i>
GEORGE N. MORRISON.....	<i>S. S.</i>
W. G. BAMPTON.....	<i>J. S.</i>
E. STEVENS.....	<i>Chaplain</i>
W. H. STEERS, M.D.....	<i>Marshal</i>
H. G. ESKUCHE.....	<i>Organist</i>
JOHN FULCHER.....	<i>Tiler</i>

Trustees.

R. W. G. F. E. PEARSALL,
JOSEPH STOCKBRIDGE,
W. JOHN A. BENNET.

Finance Committee.

J. W. COOPER,
W. S. BECKLEY,
R. W. FREDERICK H. WIGHT.

Committee on Claims.

F. C. CALLEN,
A. E. BIEDERMAN,
J. W. EASON.

Past Masters of
Commonwealth Lodge, No. 409, F. & A. M.

*ROBERT D. MCCHESENEY.	G. FRANK E. PEARSALL.
*BENJAMIN PRICE.	JOHN W. EVANS.
*JAMES M. FULLER.	*EDWIN KNOWLES.
NATHANIEL GLADDING.	JOHN A. BENNET.
LESTER W. BEASLEY.	*RICHARD WAYCOTT.
JAMES M. ROWAN.	U. T. FACKENTHALL.
*HENRY S. KNAPP.	WILLIAM T. BATHER.
FREDERICK H. WIGHT.	E. J. CAMPBELL, JR.
TIMOTHY B. LININGTON.	WILLIAM BAMBER.
*JOHN T. PALMER.	L. H. QUACKENBOSS.
THEODORE A. TAYLOR.	SAMUEL CROOK.

A. L. MADISON.

Life Members.

JOSEPH STOCKBRIDGE.	WILLIAM HOWARD.
FELIX EVANS.	

Honorary Members.

W.: GEORGE B. NICHOLL.	R.: W.: THOMAS MARCHANT.
*R.: W.: E. W. RICHARDSON.	M.: W.: WRIGHT D. POWNALL.

* Deceased.

ELECTIVE OFFICERS SINCE ORGANIZATION

YEAR	MASTER	SENIOR WARDEN	JUNIOR WARDEN	TREASURER	SECRETARY
U. D.					
1856..	Robert McChesney...	Benjamin Price	Jas. M. Fuller	Joseph Stockbridge	John D. Amerman
1857..	"	"	"	"	"
1858..	Benj. Price.....	Jas. M. Fuller	Wm. J. Mason.....	"	"
1859..	Jas. M. Fuller	Wm. J. Mason.....	Nath'l Gladding.....	"	R. McChesney
1860..	"	Nath'l Gladding.....	Edwin Swanton.....	"	"
1861..	"	Edwin Swanton.....	Uriah T. Smith.....	"	Phineas Potter
1862..	Nath'l Gladding.....	Uriah T. Smith	Fred'k Hallington	"	"
1863..	"	"	Lester W. Beasley	"	"
1864..	Jas. M. Fuller	Lester W. Beasley	George Elford	"	"
1865..	Lester W. Beasley	Edward J. Reiley.....	Samuel Edgar	Theo. Linington.....	"
1866..	"	Phineas Potter	"	Wm. T. Gilbert...	Jonathan Jones
1867..	"	Charles H. Macdonald	George Reock.....	"	"
1868..	"	James M. Rowan	Skidmore Pettit	"	"
1869..	James M. Rowan	Skidmore Pettit.....	Wm. H. Rossell.....	"	"
1870..	"	Henry S. Knapp.....	O. K. Buckley, Jr.....	"	"
1871..	"	W. H. Rossell.....	Geo. B. Elmore.....	"	"
1872..	Lester W. Beasley	John W. Reid.....	John S. Rossell	Theo. Linington.....	"
1873..	Henry S. Knapp.....	John W. Reid.....	Samuel S. Conant.....	"	"
1874..	"	W. F. Rossell.....	Fred. H. Wight.....	"	Wm. Jennings, Jr.
1875..	"	Samuel S. Conant	Timothy B. Linington	"	Fred. H. Wight
1876..	Fred. H. Wight	O. K. Buckley, Jr.....	Norman J. Jones.....	"	E. J. Campbell

1877..	Fred. H. Wight.....	Norman J. Jones	Alex. Gilchrist.....	Theo. Linington....	E. J. Campbell
1878..	Timothy B. Linington	Alex. Gilchrist	Theo. A. Taylor... ..	"	"
1879..	"	John T. Palmer	"	"	"
1880..	John T. Palmer.....	Theo. A. Taylor.....	Edwin Selvage.....	"	"
1881..	"	"	"	"	"
1882..	Theo. A. Taylor	Edwin Selvage.....	Silas Robinson.....	"	"
1883..	"	G. F. E. Pearsall.....	John W. Evans.....	"	"
1884..	G. Frank E. Pearsall	John W. Evans.....	Edward F. Gordon...	"	"
1885..	"	"	"	Theo. A. Taylor.....	"
1886..	John W. Evans.....	Edward F. Gordon...	John A. Bennet.....	"	"
1887..	"	"	Edwin Knowles... ..	"	"
1888..	Edwin Knowles.....	John A. Bennet.....	Richard Waycott.....	"	"
1889..	John A. Bennet.....	Richard Waycott...	James Macbeth.....	"	"
1890..	"	"	U. T. Fackenthal....	"	"
1891..	Richard Waycott....	U. T. Fackenthal....	Ed. J. Campbell, Jr..	"	"
1892..	U. T. Fackenthal	E. J. Campbell, Jr...	W. T. Bather.....	"	"
1893..	W. T. Bather.....	"	Wm. Bamber.....	"	"
1894..	"	"	"	"	"
1895..	E. J. Campbell, Jr...	Wm. Bamber.....	J. E. Bennet	"	"
1896..	"	"	"	"	"
1897..	Wm. Bamber.....	J. E. Bennet	L. H. Quackenboss... .	"	"
1898..	"	L. H. Quackenboss..	Samuel Crook.....	"	"
1899..	L. H. Quackenboss..	Samuel Crook.....	Alfred L. Madison...	"	"
1900..	Samuel Crook.....	Alfred L. Madison ..	Edward W. Wright..	"	"
1901..	"	"	"	"	"
1902..	Alfred L. Madison...	Edward W. Wright..	Arthur L. Wright	"	"
1903..	Edward W. Wright..	Abel Crook.....	"	"	"

