

# Craft Masonry in Bronx County, New York

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Onondaga & Oswego Masonic Districts Historical Societies (OMDHS)  
[www.ombhs.syracuseasons.com](http://www.ombhs.syracuseasons.com)  
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*Additions and corrections are welcomed*

Note: Lodges in blue are currently active as of 2000.

In compiling the historical sketches for the Masonic Districts of New York State I have saved the Greater New York City area for last owing to the very many Lodges which formed in this area. In very general terms this large metropolitan area, to include Nassau County, had numerous Lodges which found themselves in various of these counties over the years, or met at the Grand Lodge Building at several different locations.

The labor of completely and accurately identifying the actual location of the meeting places of these numerous Lodges is a somewhat daunting task, which at sometime may be able to be completely unraveled, but the present compilation the historical sketches will be written from extant sources which give locations for these Lodges.

General sources used for compilation a list of Lodges for this area:

Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York: Volumes I [1781-1815] and II [1816-1827]; 2000 and 2002

1898 List of New York Lodges, arranged by Districts from A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York ..., Volume 2, by Peter Ross, page 6 et seq.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA7&dq=%22manhattan+masonic+districts%22&hl=en&ei=L6\\_4TYDOG8bw0gH\\_spybCw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CDUQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA7&dq=%22manhattan+masonic+districts%22&hl=en&ei=L6_4TYDOG8bw0gH_spybCw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CDUQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false)

A brief overview of the Greater New York City area, gives some appreciation of the complexity of the many Lodges which appeared in this area over the years.

## New York City



The Five Boroughs of New York City: 1. Manhattan; 2. Brooklyn; 3. Queens; 4. The Bronx; 5. Staten Island.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_York\\_City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City)

New York City is composed of five boroughs. Each borough is coextensive with a respective county of New York State as shown below. Throughout the boroughs there are hundreds of distinct neighborhoods, many with a definable history and character to call their own. If the boroughs were each independent cities, four of the boroughs (Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and the Bronx) would be among the ten most populous cities in the United States.

Borough	County	Approx Pop.	Notes
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<a href="#">Manhattan</a>	New York	1,629,054	The most densely populated borough and is home to Central Park and most of the city's skyscrapers. The borough is the financial center of the city and contains the headquarters of many major corporations, the United Nations, a number of important universities, and many cultural attractions. Manhattan is loosely divided into Lower, Midtown,
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and Uptown regions. Uptown Manhattan is divided by Central Park into the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side, and above the park is Harlem.

Located primarily on Manhattan Island at the mouth of the Hudson River, the boundaries of the borough are identical to those of New York County, an original county of the state of New York. The borough and county consist of Manhattan Island and several small adjacent islands: Roosevelt Island, Randall's Island, Wards Island, Governors Island, Liberty Island, part of Ellis Island, Mill Rock, and U Thant Island; as well as Marble Hill, a very small area on the mainland bordering the Bronx. The original city of New York began at the southern end of Manhattan, expanded northwards, and then between 1874 and 1898, annexed land from surrounding counties.

**The Bronx** Bronx 1,397,287 New York City's northernmost borough, the location of Yankee Stadium, and home to the largest cooperatively owned housing complex in the United States, Co-op City. Except for a small section of Manhattan known as Marble Hill, the Bronx is the only section of the city that is part of the United States mainland. It is home to the Bronx Zoo, [265 acres]. The Bronx is the birthplace of rap and hip hop culture. It is also known as Bronx County, the last of the 62 counties of New York State to be incorporated [in 1914].

**Brooklyn** Kings 2,567,098 Since 1896, Brooklyn has had the same boundaries as Kings County. On the western tip of Long Island, is the city's most populous borough and was an independent city until 1898. Brooklyn is known for its cultural, social and ethnic diversity, an independent art scene, distinct neighborhoods and a distinctive architectural heritage. It is also the only borough outside of Manhattan with a distinct downtown neighborhood. The borough features a long beachfront and Coney Island, established in the 1870s.

**Queens** Queens 2,306,712 Queens was established in 1683 as one of the original 12 counties of New York and was supposedly named for the Queen consort, Catherine of Braganza (1638–1705), the Portuguese princess who married King Charles II of England in 1662. Originally, Queens County included the adjacent area now comprising Nassau County. On 7 Oct 1691, all counties in the Colony of New York were redefined. Queens gained North Brother Island, South Brother Island, and Huletts Island (today known as Rikers Island). On 3 Dec 1768, Queens gained other islands in Long Island Sound that were not already assigned to a county but that did not abut on Westchester County (today's Bronx County). From 1683 until 1784, Queens County consisted of five towns: Flushing, Hempstead, Jamaica, Newtown, and Oyster Bay. On 6 Apr 1784, a sixth town, the Town of North Hempstead, was formed through secession by the northern portions of the Town of Hempstead.



On 1 Mar 1860, the eastern border between Queens County (later Nassau County) and Suffolk County was redefined with no discernible change. On 8 Jun 1881, North Brother Island was transferred to New York County. On 8 May 1884, Rikers Island was transferred to New York County. In 1885, Lloyd Neck, which was part of the Town of Oyster Bay and was earlier known as Queens Village, seceded from Queens and became part of the Town of Huntington in Suffolk County. On 16 Apr 1964, South Brother Island was transferred to Bronx County.

The New York City Borough of Queens was authorized on May 4, 1897, by a vote of the New York State Legislature after an 1894 referendum on consolidation. The eastern 280 square miles of Queens that became Nassau County was partitioned on 1 Jan 1899.

Queens Borough was established on 1 Jan 1898. Long Island City, the towns of Newtown, Flushing, and Jamaica, and the Rockaway Peninsula portion of the Town of Hempstead were merged to form the new borough, dissolving all former municipal governments (Long Island City, the county government, all towns, and all villages) within the new borough. The areas of Queens County that were not part of the consolidation plan, consisting of the towns of North Hempstead and Oyster Bay, and the major remaining portion of the Town of Hempstead, remained part of Queens County until they seceded to form the new Nassau County on 1 Jan 1899, whereupon the boundaries of Queens County and the Borough of Queens became coterminous. With consolidation, Jamaica once again became the county seat, though county offices now extend to nearby Kew Gardens also.

Geographically the largest borough and the most ethnically diverse county in the United States, and may overtake Brooklyn as the city's most populous borough due to its growth. Historically a collection of small towns and villages founded by the Dutch, today the borough is predominantly residential and middle class. Queens is the site of Citi Field, the home of the New York Mets, and annually hosts the U. S. Open tennis tournament. Additionally, it is home to two of the three major airports serving the New York metropolitan area, LaGuardia and JFK airports. (The third is Newark Liberty airport in Newark, NJ.)

**Staten Island** Richmond 491,730 The most suburban in character of the five boroughs. Staten Island is connected to Brooklyn by the Verrazano Narrows Bridge and to Manhattan by way of the free Staten Island Ferry. The Staten Island Ferry is one of the most popular tourist attractions in New York City as it provides unsurpassed views of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and lower Manhattan. Located in central Staten Island, the 2,500 acres Greenbelt has some 28 miles of walking trails and one of the last undisturbed forests in the city. Designated in 1984 to protect the island's natural lands, the Greenbelt comprises seven city parks.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five\\_Boroughs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Boroughs)

New York City, one of the largest cities in the world, is composed of five **boroughs**. Each borough now has the same boundaries as the county it is in. County governments were dissolved when the city consolidated in 1898, along with all city, town, and village governments within each county. A *borough* is a unique form of governmental administration for each of the five fundamental constituent parts of the consolidated city. Technically, under New York State Law, a "borough" is a municipal corporation that is created when a county is merged with the cities, towns, and incorporated villages within it.<sup>1</sup> It differs significantly from other borough forms of government used in Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, other states, Greater London and elsewhere.

New York City is often referred to collectively as the Five Boroughs; the term is used to refer to New York City as a whole unambiguously, avoiding confusion with any particular borough or with the greater metropolitan area. It is often used by politicians to counter a focus on Manhattan and to place all five boroughs on equal footing. The term Outer Boroughs refers to all the boroughs excluding Manhattan (although the geographic center of the city is along the Brooklyn/Queens border).

Unlike most American cities, which lie within a single county, extend partially into another county, or constitute a county in themselves, each of New York City's five boroughs is coextensive with a county of New York State.

All boroughs were created in 1898 during consolidation, when the city's current boundaries were established. The Borough of Bronx was originally the parts of New York County that had been previously ceded by Westchester County, until Bronx County was created in 1914. The Borough of Queens originally consisted of just the western part of a larger Queens County, until Nassau County was created by the secession from Queens County of the three eastern towns in 1899. The Borough of Staten Island was officially the Borough of Richmond until the name was changed in 1975 to reflect its common appellation.

Each borough is represented by a Borough President and, with the exception of Manhattan, has a borough hall (the same functions, and others, reside in the Manhattan Municipal Building). Since the abolition of the Board of Estimate in 1990 (due to a 1989 ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court) the borough president now has minimal executive powers, and there is no legislative function within a borough. Most executive power is exercised by the Mayor of New York City, and legislative functions are the responsibility of the members of the New York City Council. Because they are counties, each borough also elects a District Attorney, as does every other county of the state. Some civil court judges are also elected on a borough-wide basis, although they are generally eligible to serve throughout the city.

### Lodges listed as being associated with the Bronx

No.	Lodge Name	Village	Chartered	Notes
342	Lily	Morrisania	7 Jul 1854	
342	Wyoming	Bronx	05 Dec 1991	Lily 342 and Wyoming 492 merged to become Wyoming 342, 5 Dec 1991
565	Guiding Star	Bronx	1865	Bronx Dist
565	Guiding Star-Angle	Bronx	1865	
703	Gavel	Bronx	ca 1870	
703	Gavel-Trowel	Bronx		
712	Pelham	Bronx	ca 1872	In 1897, Pelham Lodge was in the 8th Manhattan District; 30 Mar 1915, a resolution was presented to all lodges in the Bronx for the of forming a Bronx Masonic District.
714	Wieland	Bronx	ca 1872	9th Manhattan
735	Uhland	Bronx	ca 1873	9th Manhattan
813	Hebron	Bronx	1895	
860	Bronx	New York	7 May 1908	Forfeit 1927
868	Azure	Bronx	ca 1909	
873	Trowel	Bronx	ca 1910	
919	Dante	Bronx	1914	'absorbed' by Archimede-Roma No. 854
940	Equality	Bronx	ca 1916	Merged with Guiding Star-Angle Lodge No. 565
988	Angle	Bronx	1922	Probably merged with Guiding Star Lodge No. 565
989	Eternal	Bronx	1922	Probably merged with Samaritan Lodge No. 1035 to become Samaritan-Eternal Lodge No. 1035.
1006	Nathan Hale	Bronx	ca 1922	
1007	Great Light	Bronx	ca 1922	
1012	Fordham	Bronx	ca 1923	
1035	Samaritan	Bronx	ca 1924	
1035	Samaritan-Eternal	Bronx		
1039	Eden	Bronx	ca 1924	
1050	Otesaga	Bronx	ca 1925	
1077	True Course	Bronx	ca 1927	
1085	Kosciuszko	New York	03 May 1928	
1104	Kingsbridge	Bronx	ca 1930	
1120	Tremont	Tremont	1935	forfeit 1938 for 'gross irregularities'

Bronx Masonic District Website: <http://www.bronxmasons.com/main.htm>

<http://www.bronxmasons.com/about.htm>

. . . Here is a short history of Masonry in the Bronx and the Bronx District. It was taken from the 81st Anniversary Annual Charity Ball Dinner and Dance program, which was held on Sunday, October 24, 1999. Currently, as of 2007, the Bronx District is 89 years old and going strong. Special thanks to the brother(s) that compiled this history.

History does not record when the first Masonic meeting was held in what is known as The Bronx. It is known that after the Duke of York assumed control of New Amsterdam, in 1664, that British forces established garrisons in both the East Bronx (Borough of Westchester) and West Bronx (Annexed Lands). British military units then, as now, often had Military, or Traveling, Lodges accompanying them, and it is possible that such a Lodge "Worked" in the Bronx.

The first Lodge organized in what is now known as the Bronx appeared when a petition was presented to Grand Lodge on March 2, 1796 and a Warrant was ordered issued by Jacob Morton, D.G.M. and DeWitt Clinton, J.G.W. instituting **Westchester Lodge, No. 46**. The first meeting of that Lodge was held in the home of David Hustice in the Town of Westchester (now Westchester Square). The Lodge's jurisdiction extended from Long Island Sound and the Connecticut line on the east; to the Hudson River on the west; from the Harlem River on the south to the Putnam County line on the north. Stated meetings of the Lodge were those of the "first full moon of the months of January, April, July, and October." To discourage non-attendance members were fined one to four shillings for absence. On June 24, 1797, the Festival of St. John the Baptist was observed by the Lodge and Masonic Services were held in St. Peter's Episcopal Church with the Reverend Brother John Ireland officiating.

On December 27, 1797, Westchester Lodge relocated to a more central point in Eastchester and alternately met there and in White Plains until finally locating to New Rochelle, where it continues to work under the name of **Huguenot Lodge, No. 46**.

From 1797 to 1852, no Lodges regularly operated in what is now known as the Bronx, probably due to its small population and, in part, the anti-Masonic fervor resulting from the "Morgan incident," plus the schism in Grand Lodge. With the end of the "Morgan Era" and the reunification of Grand Lodge by the 1840's, Masonry enjoyed a rebirth. On December 25, 1852, a Charter was issued to **Marion Lodge, No. 278** allowing them to work in the Town of West Farms. Marion Lodge's original jurisdiction encompassed the Annexed Lands; from the Bronx River on the east to the Hudson River on the west; from the Harlem River on the south to the Yonkers line on the north. Between 1852 and 1918, eleven Lodges were Chartered in the area and one Lodge, Hopewell Lodge, relocated to the area, from Hopewell Junction.

From the formation of the Grand Lodge of New York, in 1781, Lodges were arranged in Districts according to Lodge number and area; Districts were numbered from 1 through 42. In 1898, the State of New York completed its incorporation of Counties and the creation of the City of Greater New York, thus was formed Bronx County. At the same time, Masonry in New York was growing in ever increasing numbers; this trend continued into the 20th century.

In 1908, R.W. John E. Virden, D.D.G.M. of the 7th Masonic District, first advocated the formation of a new Masonic District to be composed of Lodges locating with the County and Borough of The Bronx. He was supported and joined over the next few years by R.W. S. Harby Plough, R.W. William Y. Jack, R.W. Edward Feih, R.W. John Bell, and R.W. John Lecky, together with the earnest efforts and cooperation of their many colleagues from Lodges meeting in The Bronx. Similar discussions were going on, at the same time, throughout the state.

It was not until 1917 that the movement gained sufficient support to be presented at a Grand Lodge Communication. At the 1918 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, in May, the plan for redistricting was adopted. It fell to the newly installed Grand Master, M.W. William S. Farmer, to implement the plan. This plan established the new Masonic Districts along county lines, with numbers as necessary, and created 64 Districts, geographically arranged into four Regions. The Bronx District is one of the twenty-two Districts in the Metropolitan Region, which includes the five counties comprising Greater New York City plus Putnam, Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties (some Districts incorporate more than one county and some counties have more than one District).

The twelve original Lodges of the Bronx District came from the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 42nd Masonic Districts and were:

Azure, No. 868 (42nd District)	Bronx, No. 860 (42nd District)
Gavel, No. 703 (8th District)	Guiding Star, No. 565 (7th District)
Hebron, No. 813 (7th District)	Hopewell, No. 596 (7th District)
Level, No. 914 (42nd District)	Lily, No. 342 (6th District)
Marion, No. 278 (6th District)	Pelham, No. 712 (8th District)
Trowel, No. 860 (42nd District)	Wyoming, No. 492 (7th District)

R.W. S. Harby Plough was appointed as the first District Deputy Grand Master (D.D.G.M.), R.W. Walter McGivney was appointed as the first Staff Officer (Grand Sword Bearer) and W. William Steiger was appointed as the first Assistant Grand Lecturer (A.G.L.) of the Bronx District. Part of the redistricting plan was to encourage the formation of District organizations. Meetings were held in the autumn of 1918 and resulted in the formation of The Masters and Past Masters' Association, which became operative in January, 1919. W. Arthur A. Barr was elected as its first president.

The Masters and Past Masters' Association was established to provide a forum for District concerns, to provide for Masonic relief to the Brothers of the District, their widows and orphans, to promote the spirit and unity in the District, and to undertake charitable endeavors. Since 1919, other associations have been established to fulfill these same aims. There have been Wardens' Associations and Masters' Associations at various times. The Past District Deputies have an association which continues to function and has the responsibility of recommending appoints to Grand Lodge Offices; there is also a Purple circle made up of past and present Grand Lodge Officers.

Over the past 75 years, members of Bronx District Lodges have served their District and Grand Lodge, with distinction, as District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Chaplains, Grand Representatives, Assistant Grand Lecturers, Presidents of the Masters and Past Masters' Association, and Masters of their respective Lodges. Some of our Brothers have been called upon to serve Grand Lodge in appointed to elected officers, R.W. James F. Reynolds was appointed as Senior Grand Deacon (1949 – 1950), R.W. Henry W. Emmerson was elected Grand Treasurer (1978 – 1979) and R.W. Robert E. Roeser served as an elected Trustee of the Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library and Museum (since 1986), and R.W. Louis H. Juers was elected Grand Treasurer (1996 – 1998). Other members of District Lodges have served Grand Lodge on standing and special committees.

Masonic Lodges have met in numerous places throughout the Bronx. From private homes to buildings designed for use as Masonic Halls. Seven Masonic Halls or Temples have served the Lodge meeting in the Bronx. Six of these are still standing and two are still in use as Masonic meeting places. The oldest, City Island Masonic Temple, is owned by Pelham Lodge and was originally a mercantile building, which was converted into its present form; it still functions as a Masonic Temple. Westchester Masonic Hall, owned by Wyoming Lodge, was located on Main Street in Westchester (now Williamsbridge Road in Westchester Square) – it was

demolished in the 1970's. Washington Masonic Temple, owned by Guiding Star Lodge, was located on Washington Avenue in Tremont – the building is still standing. Hebron Temple, owned by Hebron Lodge, was located on 216th Street in Gull Hill – the building is still standing. Hopewell Temple, owned by Hopewell Lodge was located on 233rd Street in Woodlawn – the building is still standing. Wyoming Masonic Temple, owned by Wyoming Lodge, is located on East Tremont Avenue in Westchester Square and still functions as a Masonic Temple. Azure Temple, owned by Azure Lodge, originally a church, was located on Boston Road in Morrisania – the building is still standing.

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## Lily Lodge No. 342, Morrisania, New York

Warrant: 7 Jul 1854

Lily 342 and Wyoming 492 merged to become Wyoming 342, 5 Dec 1991

1855 Masonic Register:

LILY LODGE, NO. 342 - Morrisania.  
Meets on Tuesday evenings.  
*Date of Charter, July 7th, 1855.*

John Mitchell,	Master,	Oliver A. Tilden,	Treas,	William O. Roosa,	MC,
Henry Weeks,	SW,	M. L. Mann,	Secy,	George H. Wier	MC,
Henry R. Oxwith,	JW,	Isaac Ammerman, Jr.,	SD,	Isaac Hillyer,	Tiler.
		Robt. R. Sherwood,	JD,		

### MEMBERS.

Henry Affleck,	Isaac Hillyer.	M. L. Mann,	Wm. O. Roosa,	Geo. H. Wier,
Malec Allwaise,	John Hyde,	John Mitchell,	Oliver A. Tilden,	Nelson Winaus,
Isaac Ammerman, Jr.,	Michael H. Lane,	H. R. Oxwith,	Wm. Turner,	

[http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA327&dq=%22Lily+Lodge+No.+342%22&hl=en&ei=5Y3-Tf7wDcnZ0QHvqHZAw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Lily%20Lodge%20No.%20342%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA327&dq=%22Lily+Lodge+No.+342%22&hl=en&ei=5Y3-Tf7wDcnZ0QHvqHZAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Lily%20Lodge%20No.%20342%22&f=false) page 327.

**Marquis L. Mann** - Brother Mann is one of the best known members of the Masonic fraternity in Brooklyn, and for many years has been a prominent and popular figure at the leading gatherings of the craft. He was initiated, passed and raised in Marion Lodge, No. 278, which meets at West Farms, now a part of New York City, in 1853. Then, in 1854, he, with others, signed for a charter for **Lily Lodge, No. 342**, now meeting in Willis Avenue, across the Harlein, and passed in succession all its chairs. For a short time he was a member of Hiram Lodge, No. 1, Connecticut, while residing in New Haven, and on returning to Brooklyn, in 1868, affiliated with Greenwood Lodge, No. 569, Brooklyn. It must not be supposed from this change of Lodge affiliation that Brother Mann has been wayward in his choice of Lodges. The opposite has been the case. A diligent worker in our quarries, anxious to keep in touch with a Lodge he has affiliated with the one most convenient to his place of employment, and, as that of a necessity changed, he transferred his Lodge allegiance with it. He has always taken an active part in whatever Lodge he has belonged to and in each has left behind him the record of a zealous, painstaking and devoted member of the fraternity. In 1859 he received the Capitular degrees in De Witt Clinton Chapter, No. 142, R. A. M., and in 1872 was one of the companions who signed the application for a charter for Chaldean Chapter, No. 265, and of that Chapter, of which he is still a member, he was the first Treasurer. The Chivalric degrees he received in 1859, in De Witt Clinton Commandery, No. 27, and is now the oldest member of it.

Brother Mann was born in Orange County, Vermont, Jan. 11, 1823. His father was the constructor of the first passenger railroad in the United States. In 1840 Brother Mann left his native State and tried his hand at mercantile pursuits in Connecticut. In 1848 he was in New York. Then, acquiring a knowledge of the building trade, he resided for ten years in Morrisania. During much of that time he served as town clerk and was Postmaster under Presidents Fillmore, Pierce and Bu'chanan. When he left Morrisania he took up his residence in Williamsburgh and engaged in the building business. For several years he has retired from active work, except in the craft, where he is as zealous as he was forty years ago,—perhaps even more so. He is also a member of the Brooklyn Masonic Veterans, No. 135, on the list of about 1,000.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=LeoaAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA495&lpg=PA495&dq=%22Lily+Lodge+No.+342%22&source=bl&ots=iFmiiRtOwF&sig=iS5K0R0j2xV0G-UnalnhOOhSnnY&hl=en&ei=5Wb-TaL0lrKq0AGQ7M2bAw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CD0Q6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22Lily%20Lodge%20No.%20342%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=LeoaAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA495&lpg=PA495&dq=%22Lily+Lodge+No.+342%22&source=bl&ots=iFmiiRtOwF&sig=iS5K0R0j2xV0G-UnalnhOOhSnnY&hl=en&ei=5Wb-TaL0lrKq0AGQ7M2bAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CD0Q6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22Lily%20Lodge%20No.%20342%22&f=false) page 495.

**Thomas William Timpson**, (Captain)—Cashier and Real Estate, 12 Spruce street, and 1231 Franklin avenue, New York City; residence 1239 Franklin avenue; b. in New York City, 15 Mar 1866. Educated at College of the City of New York. (Married.) Treasurer T. W. Timpson & Co. and Nassau News Co. Appointed Jan. 1, 1900, commissioner of schools of the Boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx. Member Democratic Club, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution, Society of Foreign Wars, 9th Regiment, N. G. N. Y., 71st Regiment and 9th Regiment Veteran Associations, **Lily Lodge No. 342**, F&AM, Ivy Chapter No. 138, R. A. M., Constantine Commandery No. 42, Knights Templar, and Naval and Military Order of Spanish-American War.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=s6IUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1616&lpg=PA1616&dq=%22Lily+Lodge+No.+342%22&source=bl&ots=gbdyuQJGHp&sig=t9YwVuLa\\_9OVbQBZnpfHefEJub4&hl=en&ei=5Wb-TaL0lrKq0AGQ7M2bAw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CD0Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=%22Lily%20Lodge%20No.%20342%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=s6IUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1616&lpg=PA1616&dq=%22Lily+Lodge+No.+342%22&source=bl&ots=gbdyuQJGHp&sig=t9YwVuLa_9OVbQBZnpfHefEJub4&hl=en&ei=5Wb-TaL0lrKq0AGQ7M2bAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CD0Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=%22Lily%20Lodge%20No.%20342%22&f=false) page 1615.

**A. Sidney Chase.** Quite recently, by his own choice, Mr. Chase terminated an official career which had been continuous for twenty-four years in the office of probate judge of Ellsworth County. It was a long and honorable service and when considered in connection with Judge Chase's well known integrity of character and other successful accomplishments it stands as a credit to the entire State of Kansas.

To a large degree Judge Chase is the architect of his own destiny, but he had that inestimable advantage of good birth and the inheritance that comes from solid and substantial old American stock. It was the same family which in a collateral branch produced the eminent Salmon P. Chase, secretary of the treasury under Lincoln and later Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Chase's great-grandfather, John Chase, was a soldier in the provincial wars and also in the Revolution. The grandfather, Silas Chase, not only fought in the Revolution but also in 1812. Judge Chase was born at Boston, MA, 5 Feb 1842, a son of Autumnus S. and Mary A. (Peterson) Chase, both of whom were natives of Massachusetts. Autumnus S. Chase was an officer in the United States Navy and was on duty during the Mexican war. In 1848 he went to California with a ship load of miners' cabins, ready to put up. He landed in California, went to Nevada City, where he was stricken with the Chagres fever and died there. It was nine years before his fate was learned by his family back East and the news was finally conveyed to them because of that strong tie that exists between fellow Masons.

After his father went West A. Sidney Chase and his mother removed to Albany, NY, where he grew to manhood. At the age of twelve years he had to leave school in order to support his widowed mother. In order to earn a living he turned to a trade and served an apprenticeship as a piano maker. He finished the apprenticeship at the age of eighteen.

Within less than a year, in 1861, he responded to the call of President Lincoln for troops to put down the rebellion. Enlisting at the first call, he went out with Company I of the **5th NY Volunteer Infantry** and was with his regiment until the expiration of the term of service. He was promoted to corporal, then to sergeant, second lieutenant and first lieutenant, and was mustered out at the end of the war as captain of Company C. His regiment was included in the Army of the Potomac and participated with it in all the engagements until after the battles of Mechanicsburg and Chancellorsville. At Shepardstown Judge Chase was wounded by a canister shot.

After the war Judge Chase worked as a piano maker until 1877, when he came to Kansas and took up a soldier's claim in Ellsworth County. He remained on his farm for ten years and made a valuable agricultural property out of it.

Judge Chase has been a resident of Ellsworth since 1885. He was engaged in the real estate business there until 1892, in which year he was first elected to the office of probate judge. He served continuously in that office, requiring so much ability, understanding and sympathy in the adjustment of delicate human relations, until 1916, a period of twenty-four years. At the last six elections he had no opposition, and he might be serving today had he not preferred to retire, feeling that his responsibility to the public had been adequately discharged. His record justifies the claim made by his friends that he has been one of the most successful probate judges of Kansas.

Judge Chase is a republican, and has long been prominent in Masonic circles. He took his first degrees in Masonry in Lily Lodge No. 342, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at New York City. He is past master of Ellsworth Lodge No. 146, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, belongs to the Ellsworth Royal Arch Chapter and the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and is now a life member of the Scottish Rite bodies of Indiana, including Adoniram Grand Lodge of Perfection, The Indianapolis Chapter, Rose Croix, and the Indianapolis Consistory. On November 13, 1873, he was elected an honorary member of the Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite Masons, and is an honorary member of Wichita Consistory. He is also active in the Grand Army of the Republic, being a charter member and past commander of Ellsworth Post No. 22.

Judge Chase married at Brooklyn, New York, January 3, 1865, Maria R. Simonds. Mrs. Chase is descended from ancestors who were soldiers in the Revolution, while her father, Joshua Simonds, was in the War of 1812 and his brother Joseph Simonds was midshipman under Commodore Perry in the same conflict. Judge and Mrs. Chase have two children, Maria and Clarence. The daughter was well educated and taught school in Ellsworth County until her marriage to William P. Spicer. Mr. and Mrs. Spicer live at Lawrence, where he is in the tailoring business. They have two children, William and Miriam. William, grandson of Judge Chase, is a graduate of Kansas University and is a teacher in the summer school of the University in 1917. The granddaughter, Miriam, is a graduate of Kansas University and is at home with her parents.

The son, Clarence Chase, is a graduate of the Salina Business College and a very successful Kansas business man, being general sales manager of the Lee Warren Milling Company at Salina, and also head of the Chase Wholesale Company of Topeka.

CHASE, A. SIDNEY. - Age 19 years. Enlisted [5th NY Inf. Vols.], 20 Jul 1861, at New York city; mustered in as private, Co. I, 29 Jul 1861, to serve three years; promoted Corporal, 1 Nov 1861; Sergeant, 21 Jan 1862; 1st Sergeant, 21 Feb 1862; mustered in as 2Lt, Co. K, 2 Aug 1862; 1Lt, Co. C, 1 Sep 1862; Captain, Co. B, 8 Dec 1862; transferred to Co. C, 9 Dec 1862; mustered out with company, 11 May 1863, at New York city; also borne as Sidney A.; commissioned 2Lt, 28 Aug 1861, with rank from 26 Jul 1862, vice A. S. Marvin, promoted; 1Lt, 29 Oct 1862, with rank from 30 Aug 1862, vice J. H. Lounsbury, promoted; Captain, 12 Dec 1862, with rank from 1 Dec 1862, vice G. Duryea, promoted.

## **Wyoming Lodge No. 342**

Lily 342 and Wyoming 492 merged to become **Wyoming 342**, 5 Dec 1991

Lodge Website: <http://www.bronxmasons.com/Lodges/342.htm> [basically nothing on it]

Meets at City Island Temple; 1st & 3rd Thursday

"Information is still pending for this lodge . . ."

Officers 2009 - 2010

Master W.' Domingo Espinal

## Guiding Star Lodge No. 565

Warrant: 1865

Star of Cuba 742	merged with and became Guiding Star 569, 7 May 1970;
Angle 988	consolidated with Guiding Star to form <b>Guiding Star-Angle 565</b> , 20 May 1977;
Hopewell 596	consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;
Marion 278	consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesgaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;
Otesaga-Marion 278	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;
Equality 940	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;
Hopewell-True Course 596	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;
Gavel-Trowel 703	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

## Guiding Star Angle Lodge No. 565

Star of Cuba 742	merged with and became Guiding Star 569, 7 May 1970;
Angle 988	consolidated with Guiding Star to form <b>Guiding Star-Angle 565</b> , 20 May 1977;
Hopewell 596	consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;
Marion 278	consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesgaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;
Otesaga-Marion 278	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;
Equality 940	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;
Hopewell-True Course 596	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;
Gavel-Trowel 703	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

Lodge Website: <http://www.bronxmasons.com/Lodges/565.htm> [basically nothing on this website]

Meets at City Island Temple, 1st Wednesday & 3rd Wednesday (Fellowcraft)

Officers 2009 - 2010

Master	R.'W.'. Efrain Hernandez
SW	W.'. Robert E. Zigrest II
JW	W.'. Michael Connolly Bro. Derrick Owens
Treas	R.'W.'. Manfred O. Wuttke
Secry	R.'W.'. Richard B. Olsen
SD	Bro. Sigfredo J. Solano
JD	Bro. Eric Gillard
SMC	Bro. Mark Martinez
JMC	Bro. Raymond Calderon
Marshal	W.'. Edward Garcia
Chaplain	R.'W.'. Anthony B. Colon
Trustees	R.'W.'. William C. Johnsen, Bro. George L. Nyborg III, R.: W.: Anthony B. Colon

## Gavel Lodge No. 703

Warrant: ca 1870

Trowel 873	consolidated with <b>Gavel 703</b> to form Gavel-Trowel 703, 10 Dec 1971
Angle 988	consolidated with Guiding Star to form Guiding Star-Angle 565, 20 May 1977;
Hopewell 596	consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;
Marion 278	consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesgaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;
Otesaga-Marion 278	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;
Equality 940	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;
Hopewell-True Course 596	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;
Gavel-Trowel 703	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

Celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Saturday, May 23rd, 1970 at the Statler Hilton Hotel.

Electrical review, Volume 63, edited by George Worthington, page 749.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=JY4fAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA750&dq=%22Gavel+Lodge+No.+703%22&hl=en&ei=nZUAToeyHein0AGKhyvQDg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5&ved=0CFUQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22Gavel%20Lodge%20No.%20703%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=JY4fAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA750&dq=%22Gavel+Lodge+No.+703%22&hl=en&ei=nZUAToeyHein0AGKhyvQDg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5&ved=0CFUQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22Gavel%20Lodge%20No.%20703%22&f=false)

**Robert Edwards**, who established Edwards & Company, died at his residence in Loweree, Yonkers, NY, on 17 Sep 1913. He was born on 19 Sep 1938, in London, England, coming to this country in 1847. He first resided in Fond du Lac, Wis., but about 1849 returned to New York City, with his family, where he resided continuously. He was educated at Manhattan College, in New York City. After completing his education he entered the jewelry business, and was for many years with the firm of Bishop & Rein, in the old Fifth Avenue Hotel. In the early 70's he entered the electrical business and in 1872 started Edwards & Company as a contracting concern. In the early days of his electrical career this company merely manufactured material for their own use, but about ten years ago the manufacturing interest became prominent, the construction end of the business was disposed of, and his entire attention was devoted to manufacturing. Mr. Edwards continued as the head of the company until about five years ago, when he retired from active management, but always retained an interest in the company and was its president at the time of his death. Mr. Edwards was one of the early settlers of what is now known as Bronx Borough, having taken up his residence there in 1869, where he lived until two years ago, when he removed to Loweree, a suburb of Yonkers. He was one of the oldest Masons in New York City, having joined **Gavel Lodge No. 703**, F. & A. M., in 1870. He always took an active interest in Masonic affairs and was **twice Master** of his lodge. In recognition of his services, he received the exceptional distinction of being made an honorary member. He was also a very

active worker in Methodist Church circles and was a member of one church for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, four children and nine grandchildren.

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The American Blue Book of Biography: Men of 1912 . . . , page 641.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=7mMfAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA642&dq=%22Gavel+Lodge+No.+703%22&hl=en&ei=nZUAToeyHein0AGKhvyQDg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CF4Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=%22Gavel%20Lodge%20No.%20703%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=7mMfAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA642&dq=%22Gavel+Lodge+No.+703%22&hl=en&ei=nZUAToeyHein0AGKhvyQDg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CF4Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=%22Gavel%20Lodge%20No.%20703%22&f=false)

**Fred A. Wurzbach**, manufacturer and banker; born, Newark, NJ., 25 May 1868; son of Charles and Matilda F. (Hartranft) Wurzbach; educated, public schools of Plainfield, NJ, 1875-81; New Jersey Business College, Newark, NJ, 1884; married, Newark, NJ, 3 Sep 1890, Amalia Elizabeth Alt; children: Fred A., Jr., b. 1896, Ruth A., b. 1897, Beatrice, b. 1905. President and director The Bronx National Bank; president of the Pan American States Association; vice-president and director C. D. Durkee Co.; general manager of firm of Francis Keil & Son, hardware manufacturers. Republican; Baptist. Member **Gavel Lodge No. 703**, F&AM, Ivy Chapter, R.A.M., Manhattan Commandery, KT, Mecca Shrine, Royal Arcanum, Suburban Council, all of Bronx.

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<http://fultonhistory.com/Newspapers%206/New%20York%20NY%20Tribune/New%20York%20NY%20Tribune%201897%20Mar%200Grayscale/New%20York%20NY%20Tribune%201897%20Mar%20Grayscale%20-%20200272.pdf>

14 Mar 1897 – New York Daily Tribune

One of the most popular Past District Deputies is R. W. **J. Stewart Wilson**, Past .District Deputy, of the Eighth Masonic District, who served under the late lamented M.' W.'. John Hodge. Brother Wilson was born in New York City December 11, 1854, and received a thorough education in the best public schools here. He was raised in **Gavel Lodge No. 703**, April 15, 1887, and served as its Master in, 1889, 1890 and 1891, and again in 1894, and was again called to the East-of Gavel by his brethren in December, 1896. He was exalted in Sylvan Chapter No. 188, in May 1890, and was Knighted in Constantino Commandery No. 48. where he served as Eminent Commander for two years. Thus it will be seen that this distinguished brother has been very active in the Masonic quarries since he became a member of the craft. During his term of office, in the Eighth District he was known as the "hustling D. D."

Brother Wilson has also been active in other organizations, is, a Past Grand Master of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Past Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, and a Past Commander in the American Legion of Honor. He is a member of the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church and other societies, in all of which he takes an active Interest, although his many business engagements draw heavily upon his time. He is engaged in the newspaper advertising business. He is located in the Bennett Building, Fulton and Nassau Streets. He is and has been for the last five years the president of the North Side Republican Club, the leading club in the Twenty-third Ward of this city. Brother Wilson is one of those who "wears well," his word is his bond, and he makes no promise he is not able to keep, so it is but natural that the brethren look upon him as an upright man and one upon whom, their confidence is worthily bestowed, and who will not betray a trust or abuse a confidence.

### Gavel-Trowel Lodge No. 703

Trowel 873	consolidated with Gavel 703 to form <b>Gavel-Trowel 703</b> , 10 Dec 1971
Angle 988	consolidated with Guiding Star to form Guiding Star-Angle 565, 20 May 1977;
Hopewell 596	consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;
Marion 278	consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesgaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;
Otesaga-Marion 278	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;
Equality 940	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;
Hopewell-True Course 596	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;
<b>Gavel-Trowel 703</b>	consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

Trowel Lodge, No. 873, was constituted and received the charter which was granted to it at the recent communication of the Grand Lodge of New York, on Friday evening May 27 [1910], at its rooms in the Bronx Masonic Temple. It starts out with 72 charter members and a comfortable treasury balance.

### Pelham Lodge No. 712

Warrant: ca 1872	
Azure 868	merged with and became Pelham 712, 12 May 1972;
Kingsbridge 1104	merged with and became Pelham 712, 7 Jun 1977;
Ausonia 1045	merged with and became Pelham 712, 21 Jan 1982;
Samaritan-Eternal 1035	merged with and became Pelham 712, 21 Oct 2009

Lodge Website: <http://www.bronxmasons.com/Lodges/712.htm>

First Meeting U.D.: 4 Feb 1871

#### Masters

1871 U.D.	John O. Fordham	1874	John O. Fordham	?	Harry T. Booth
1872	John O. Fordham				
1873	S. D. Levenap	1915	Walter C. Hitchcock		



Meets City Island Temple, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
Officers 2011 - 2012

Master	W.'. Edwin Beroa	JD	Bro. Richard Foster
SW	Bro. James Devlin	SMC	Bro. Anthony Ramos
JW	Bro. Robert Pena	JMC	Bro. Marvin Hunt
Treas	R.'.W.'. Louis H. Juers	Marshal	Bro. Luis Vegerano Jr.
Asst Treas	R.'.W.'. Luis A. Rojas	Steward	Bro. Danny Lall & Bro. Marcos Fibrolet
Secy	R.'.W.'. Francis M. Ruddy	Tiler	Bro. James Melendez
Asst Secy	R.'.W.'. Donald P. Mattson	Chaplain	W.'. Severo Diaz
SD	Bro. Keybi Paulino	Historian	R.'.W.'. Luis A. Rojas
Trustees	R.'.W.'. Scott E. Meyer, Bro. Edward Sadler, R.'.W.'. Antonio Cardillo, R.'.W.'. Charles F. Gramling, W.'. Marlon Thomas		

The history of Pelham Lodge extends back to 1871, when Pelham Lodge No. 712 was founded. The history comes in two parts. The first part I obtained from a copy of the 1971 100th Anniversary Celebration journal, written by W.'. James O. Payne and the second part from R.'.W.'. Donald P. Mattson, which he has written himself.

A group of City Island Masons on or about 1870 decided to form their own lodge. Thereafter, Grand Lodge sent them a dispensation and Pelham Lodge was born. The charter members were:

D. W. Billar,	Wm. F. Billar,	John O. Fordham,	Stephen D. Leviness,	A. B. Wood.
Jerome Bell,	Oswald Bergan,	James Hyatt,	Frederick Price,	
John Bowman,	David Carll,	Benjamin Hegeman,	Charles H. Stringham,	

The first meeting, attended by 12 members and 1 visitor, was held on Saturday, February 4, 1871 with John O. Fordham as Master. By-laws were drafted and it was voted to meet every Tuesday night. A dispensation cost of \$80.00 was paid and Pelham Lodge became part of the Ninth Masonic District. The lodge rooms were over a carpenter shop south of where the Island Pub is now located, in a building owned by a Mr. Baxter who later became a Brother. Rent was \$100.00 a year without heat and the cost of coal was \$6.00 per ton.

At the fifth meeting on February 28, 1871, By-laws were adopted, and at the eighth meeting, Pelham held its first Master Mason's Degree, at which 3 candidates were raised. The first application to be received was that of Edward L. Wooden, age 25, teacher at City Island's one-room, one-teacher schoolhouse.

During Pelham's first year, 13 Brothers were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, making a total of 31 members, 2 Fellowcrafts, and 3 Entered Apprentices. W.'. Bro. John O. Fordham was re-elected Master for another year on December 19, 1871. The second Worshipful Master of Pelham Lodge was S. D. Levenap, elected December 24, 1872. Elections were held for the offices of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Secretary, and Treasurer.

On April 25, 1873, a special meeting was called to arrange for a suitable steamboat to carry the remains of Brother Benjamin Hegeman to its resting place in Bayville. The Steamboat HARLEM was chartered, piloted by Captain Longstreet.

W.'. John O. Fordham was installed as Master for the coming year at a public installation on December 26, 1873. After the Civil War, the Grand Master of the State of New York asked for a donation to help the Masonic Brothers of the South. Thirty dollars was raised and forwarded to the Grand Secretary and subsequently a letter acknowledging the receipt of this money was received from Louisiana Relief Lodge No. 1.

There were no meetings from May 13th to December 23rd, 1884, as there was a fire in the building that housed the lodge. The first destroyed some of the furniture, for which the lodge collected \$375.00 on an \$800.00 policy.

On December 6, 1887, Pelham Lodge was notified of its indebtedness to the Grand Lodge of New York for \$275.00 for building the 23rd Street Masonic Temple. To pay this amount, Pelham Lodge took out a loan, putting up the lodge furniture for security.

On January 7, 1888, the members of Pelham voted to move to Booth's Hall, its present location, and requested the Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master to inspect the new lodge rooms before they completed the deal. Rent was \$10.00 a month for 10 months each year. The lodge rooms were dedicated on April 15, 1890.

At the meeting of February 19, 1895, the lodge was nine months behind in its rent and decided to give up its rooms. February 26th of that year they reconsidered this action and decided to stay.

In 1897, Pelham Lodge had 23 members and was placed in the Eighth Manhattan District.

In 1898, a committee was formed to find the cost of installing electric lights. Upon reporting that it would cost \$30.00 to wire and place two lights in the lodge room, plus \$4.00 a month for lighting, the idea was tabled for some future meeting.

The following year it was decided that each member should furnish himself a pair of white gloves and that the Worshipful Master be required to purchase a silk hat. The members were to wear their gloves at all stated communications and the Master was required to wear his hat in the lodge room. A special meeting was called on Wednesday, May 17, 1899 to arrange a list of Brothers to sit up with W.: Bro. Boyd. The brothers who did not attend were summoned to appear the next Tuesday to show cause why they did not obey a summons.

At the October 17, 1899 meeting, a committee reported that they could not get a place to entertain the District Deputy for his visit the following week. It was decided to have coffee and sandwiches at the lodge – then, as an afterthought, they decided to add oyster to the refreshments, which makes one realize that times don't change. As of December 1899, Pelham Lodge had \$92.81 in its treasury, all bills paid and a membership of 41, 3 Fellowcrafts, and 1 Entered Apprentice.

In October 1900, a committee reported the cost of wiring the lodge would be \$8.45 and electricity for one month would be \$1.92. Action on this matter was postponed. There were 56 members in good standing and a balance of \$213.00 with \$65.75 in bills outstanding. An election of officers held on December 18, 1900 was declared invalid due to an informality. The Worshipful Master ordered a new ballot at the next communication, which resulted in the same officers being elected.

At the February 19th meeting, the lodge celebrated its 30th Anniversary. Among the pleasant events of this evening was a presentation of a beautiful lambskin apron to each surviving charter member, namely: Bro. John O. Fordham, Bro. James Hyatt, Bro. Augustus B. Wood, and Bro. Jerome Bell. In December, the Grand Master sent out a letting informing the Master and Brothers that clandestine lodges were being formed in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania and advised them to carefully check credentials of all visitors.

At a special meeting held on Friday, June 6th, 1902, a piece of property belonging to Bro. Hyatt was offered for sale of \$1,500.00. This property was on Main Street (City Island Avenue) and a motion was made to purchase same. A committee was then formed to look into other pieces of property and when none were available, they were instructed to purchase the Hyatt property for less than \$1,500.00. They arrived at a price of \$1,475.00 on which they placed a retainer of \$75.00.

On October 28, 1902, the lodge voted to become incorporated. It was on this date that Trustees were elected to serve 1, 2, and 3 year terms. Prior to that time they were appointed each year.

August 11, 1903, at 12:00, an emergent communication was held. The lodge was opened on the Third Degree and assembled for a funeral procession to pay last respects to Bro. William Garner. The lodge members then went to Bronxdale Methodists Episcopal Church for church and Masonic services, after which they went to inter the body in Woodlawn Cemetery. The lodge remained open until September 8th, at which time it was closed in due form.

On October 4, 1904, the Brothers thanked Bro. Francis Arthur for entertaining them with his phonograph. Grand Lodge dues were \$49.50 this year.

On June 19, 1906, the lodge rented a Pianola (piano) for the night. They had to pay for their own rolls and half the cost of tuning it. Rental was \$25.00 a year, but the lodge felt it could not afford this luxury. In December of this year, all officers in the lodge were re-elected.

In 1908, the Trustees were empowered to obtain a first mortgage of \$1,000.00 for the erection of a building for Pelham Lodge. At the end of this year, they had 118 members.

On March 1, 1910, W.'. Bro. Sam Reynolds gave a speech at a meeting to celebrate the burning of a mortgage on some property the lodge had purchased. In September 1910, the lodge contracted to pay half the cost of a party wall between their property and that of Samuel Miller at a total cost of \$800.00.

Bro. James B. Prout was appointed to represent Pelham Lodge in Utica in June 1911 for the installation of a stained glass window, which was placed there by the 8th Manhattan District of which we were a part. He received \$25.00 to defray his expenses.

February 1st, 1912, the first School of Instruction was held in Wyoming Lodge No. 492 in Westchester Square, with Bro. Fred H. Wefer as Assistant Grand Lecturer. In September, the lodge decided to sell the lot it was holding to buy the building where they met.

The property located on the east side of City Island Avenue south of Orchard Street (now Hawkins Street) was sold for \$2,500.00 in November 1913. This year a letter was received inviting the members to the dedication of Hebron Masonic Temple. At the end of the year, we had 149 members.

On March 30, 1915, a resolution was presented to all lodges in the Bronx for the purpose of forming a Bronx Masonic District.

A committee was formed in 1915 to see about renovating the lodge room, specifically, construction of a platform in the east, raising the Warden's chair and the back row of seats. In October, the lodge paid \$15.00 for W.'. Walter C. Hitchcock, then Master, for his trip to Utica. An organ was purchased for \$200.00 in September 1916.

On January 22, 1918, W.'. Bro. Harry Aery, as Acting Master of Pelham Lodge conferred the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degrees of Masonry in one night to George James Killin. This was arranged by special dispensation from Grand Lodge. The lodge stayed open for the month of July to give degrees to men in the Service.

On January 7, 1919, the Trustees, along with 3 other members, were empowered to purchase the building which meetings were being held. The membership in 1919 was 239 and W.'. Bro. R. C. Lawrence was appointed Grand Representative of Costa Rica.

In 1920, the secretary reported 34 candidates raised, 1 unaffiliated, 3 decreased, and 12 demitted – leaving a membership of 255.

In November 1921, Pelham Lodge presented Angle Lodge, U.D. with officers' jewels at a special meeting. The decorated letter "G" and the Eastern Star in the lodge room were made by W.'. Bro. Walter Hitchcock. With a special dispensation from Grand Lodge, Pelham conferred the Degree of Master Mason to 10 Brothers in June 1922. In July, 27 names of members were ordered dropped from our rolls and added to the rolls of Angle Lodge – this by order of Grand Lodge.

In October 1924, the Trustees arranged to have a heating system installed in the lodge for \$400.00.

The Secretary reported on January 5, 1926, that Pelham Lodge had 302 members. W.'. Bro. John O. Fordham died this year. He was the first Master of Pelham Lodge and the last charter member.

The Trustees, in February 1926, were empowered to purchase two lots on Schofield Street for \$2,500.00. A Building Committee was formed to obtain sketches of a suitable lodge room and a Ways and Means Committee sent out letters soliciting pledges. The following month, they reported \$5,000.00 pledged and \$2,625.00 in cash. It was decided that the maximum price for the building be

\$30,000.00. On April 20, 1926, it was reported that the committee had received pledges from 135 members to the amount of \$8,535.00.

During the pre-depression years of 1927 and 1928, many plans were considered – among them one to return the building fund money to the donors, which was done. The Trustees were ordered to sell the property on Schofield Street at a profit – priced at a later date at \$3,000.00. A real estate firm offered to buy the lodge building – asking price was \$20,000.00.

On June 5, 1928, the lodge discussed enlarging the meeting room but no action was taken as all these plans went astray when the depression hit. The lodge was finally renovated in 1933.

In 1943, a Fellowcraft Team was started, composed of all sideliners with R.'W.'. Benedict May as Instructor. On June 18th, R.'W.'. Benedict May was appointed District Deputy of the Bronx District.

During the years 1932, 1933, and 1934, every effort was made and many plans tried to reinstate unaffiliated members who were dropped during the depression. The Secretary's report for 1939 showed 257 members.

In 1942, the lodge was busy with Defense, Savings Bond Drives, Masonic War Chest, and United Service Organization campaign fund. The Grand Master asked for a minimum of 25 pints of blood to be donated by each lodge.

On June 15, 1943, the Grand Secretary announced the appointment of R.'W.'. Aaron F. Forsey to the office of Grand Sword Bearer.

The Worshipful Master announced on April 4, 1944, that Brother Joseph E. Butterworth had donated the sum of \$20,000.00 to the lodge as a trust fund to be known as the Butterworth Fund, the interest of the same to be used only for medical treatment and hospitalization of indigent members of Pelham Lodge, their wives, and children.

In 1945, the Trustees reported that the building had several violations on it. The wooden fire-escape had to be replaced with an iron one; the kitchen had to be ventilated; the stairs in the pool room had to be enclosed; and an exit had to be provided to the street at a cost of \$2,500.00.

On May 15th 1945, a prayer of thankfulness was said for V-E Day. The Secretary's report for this year showed 292 members.

Pelham Lodge celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1946 and Harry Booth presented a history of the lodge which, unfortunately, was not incorporated in the minutes.

R.'W.'. James F. Reynolds was appointed to the office of District Deputy Grand Master on June 18, 1946. His reception and presentation was held in the Methodist Hall with about 350 members and visitors attending. Sunday morning, February 9, 1947, was Pelham Lodge's first day to escort the veterans to church at Kingsbridge Hospital and we have been doing it ever since.

On June 7, 1949, the Grand Secretary informed the lodge of the appointment of R.'W.'. James F. Reynolds as Grand Senior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of New York. This was the first time the Bronx District received such an honor. On October 4, 1949, Pelham Lodge, on special dispensation held their regular meeting at Wyoming Temple for his presentation.

In April 1951, a delegation from Pelham went by boat to Port Washington to see W.'. Lester Conrad's brother raised. W.'. Charles C. Simpson supplied his boat for the trip.

The lodge rooms and banquet hall were renovated in 1952, during which year membership was 333. The Fellowcraft Club put on their first drama on March 2, 1954.

On June 5, 1956, the Worshipful Master announced that R.'W.'. Daniel C. Bloom had been appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Bronx District and arrangements were made for a reception at Wyoming Temple on September 18th. On October 2, 1956, for the first time in Pelham existence, a degree was conferred by Sideliners.

In April 1957, Pelham qualified for a Red Cross Plaque for the third time. This award signifies that the organization has donated 20 or more pints of blood. The Secretary's report indicated 338 members this year. In May 1957, we had 33 pints of blood.

It was announced that the amendment to the Grand Lodge Constitution to the effect that "Members raised must memorize the lecture of the Third Degree before signing the By-laws," was lost at a Grand Lodge session. On November 17, 1959, we had 50 pints of blood on hand and in 1960, the Secretary's semi-annual report showed a membership of 350.

At the last meeting of December 1960, the District Deputy Grand Master of the Bronx paid a social visit to Pelham and announced that all lodges would be asked to contribute towards the purchase of wheelchairs for the District. Since that time, we have received several letters from Pelham's members thanking us for the use of these chairs.

The 90th Anniversary Dinner was held at Thwaite's Inn on June 14, 1961. The 90 members who attended enjoyed a fine dinner and listened to the old-timers and Past Masters telling of Pelham's history. W.'. Bro. Harry T. Booth, our oldest living Past Master attended this special affair.

The portions of this report which follow, through the year 1971, have been collected by word-of-mouth due to the fact that the lodge was almost totally destroyed by fire and records for these years were lost.

In November 1961, R.'. W.'. Walter C. Hitchcock was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Victoria near the Grand Lodge of New York. This was an honor the lodge had looked forward to for a long time since Bro. Hitchcock was the dedicated Secretary of Pelham for 38 years and had the love and respect of all our members.

In 1962, the lodge was renovated with brick facing on the side wall extended to the foundation for support and the entrance changed from City Island Avenue to Schofield Street at a cost of \$10,000.00. Thus, Pelham had another mortgage to pay.

In 1962, the Secretary's room and poolroom were paneled and the basement was tiled. It was also the first year our blood bank went over 100 pints.

The 100th Anniversary Committee was appointed and started to function in 1966, so it is evident that Pelham Lodge was very fortunate to have a very enthusiastic, active, and fore-sighted group of members. Unfortunately, it was impossible to name them all individually but the success of Pelham is due to the fact that the members have always worked as a team for the good of all and we are very grateful to them.

In September 1968, the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer were first elected. The Building Fund Chairman announced that a Brother of Pelham Lodge pledged to match dollar for dollar of any monies donated by Brothers who had not completed their pledge of \$35.00. On January 7, 1969, the lodge received \$680.70 from Bro. Victor K. Anderson as his part of this agreement.

About this time, the 100th Anniversary Fund reached a total of \$3,500.00.

On June 3, 1969, Grand Lodge announced that R.'W.'. Gus C. Fowler was appointed Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of New York. This same month our Building Fund indebtedness was down to \$850.00. W.'. Bro. James Drummond was appointed Chairman of the Bronx District Blood Bank on June 17th and R.'W.'. Gus C. Fowler was presented with his Commission in September with 140 members in attendance.

On October 12, 1969, the lodge building was razed by fire and the damage was estimated at 40 percent of the building and 80 percent of the furnishings destroyed. The October 21st meeting was cancelled. Temple Beth El of City Island offered their facilities until damages to our building could be repaired. Our meetings were held there for one year. We were left with a mortgage of \$17,500.00.

At this point I [W.: James O. Payne] would like to say a word about the rebuilding of the Temple. Every Brother who was able offered his services. The Trustees were in charge of the reconstruction – asking advice and listening to suggestions of all members.

The collation room was the biggest undertaking of the project. Contractors were consulted to see about lowering the floor. Their bids ranged from \$3,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for excavating the cellar floor 12 ½ inches. Rather than go into this further indebtedness, a wonderful group of Brothers decided to attempt this difficult job themselves. They worked all summer with picks and shovels, removing an incredibly well-constructed foundation, making their deadline September 1st. The cement floor was poured by 6 Brothers in one day and a tile-layer was called in to put down the tiles. The Brothers then painted the trim, bricked walls, installed an air-conditioner, replaced a window – and missed the deadline by 15 days.

The Brothers who helped with this work are now part of this building, as the sweat from their brows and broken blisters from their hands are mixed in with the cement, bricks, and paint. We are, of course, very proud of this building today [1971] and [2007] as it is a testament to the devotion of our members.

On September 15, 1970, we had our first official meeting in Pelham Temple since the fire. City Island Temple was rededicated on November 21, 1970, with Most Wor. Bro. Charles E. Gosnell occupying the East.

On February 16, 1971, the Blood Bank Chairman reported that Pelham's own blood bank, in which we invited the District to participate, was attended by 157 donors of which 64 pints were recorded for our lodge. Pictures were taken and subsequently appeared in the Empire State Mason.

Sixteen Brothers went to a One Hundredth Anniversary meeting at Standard Lodge No. 711 on April 26th 1971, and were graciously received.

Now, as we stand on the threshold of our second 100 years with more members and the same enthusiasm as our founding Brothers, we look forward to the continuing cooperative spirit of all our members and extend a cordial welcome to all who would like to share our hospitality to meet with us in good fellowship.

What you have just read was written so eloquently by W.: James O. Payne for the 100th Anniversary Celebration journal for Pelham Lodge No. 712. It was held on Friday, June 4, 1971 at The Fountainhead in New Rochelle. I have copied it down verbatim with some notations, those in brackets, and minor grammatical changes. This is done to preserve the integrity of what Bro. Payne had written thirty-six years ago. We are currently looking for a history from 1971 - present.

<http://www.historicpelham.com/blogarchive/Blog20091006.htm>

William B. Astor, Jr. (July 12, 1830 - April 25, 1897) was a grandson of John Jacob Astor. He inherited a substantial portion of the family fortune. During the 1880s he had a steam yacht named the Nourmahal. The Captain of that yacht for a time was Samuel Freestone of Bartow-on-the-Sound, a hamlet located in the Town of Pelham. On October 8, 1888, Captain Freestone was overcome by gas from the coal used on the yacht and subsequently died at his home in Bartow-on-the-Sound. A brief article appeared in The New York Times. It read as follows:

"SUDDEN DEATH ON A YACHT.

**Capt. Samuel Freestone**, in command of William B. Astor's steam yacht Nourmahal, died suddenly at Bartow-on-the-Sound, N.Y., yesterday morning from apoplexy, resulting, it is said, from inhaling gas from the coal used on the yacht. Capt. Freestone was found in a state of asphyxia on the yacht and taken home, but medical aid failed to rally him. He was a fine seaman, and was brought to this country from England by Mr. Astor. He was a member of **Pelham Lodge, No. 712**, F. and A.M., and will be buried with Masonic honors." Source: Sudden Death on a Yacht, N.Y. Times, Oct. 9, 1888, at p. 8.

<http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/2006/07/genealogical-and-family-history.html>

**Rochelle Horton**, third child of Benjamin Franklin and Delia (Abbott) Horton, received his educational training in the schools of City Island, attending the same until his eighteenth year, when he became apprentice to his uncle, Captain Nicholas W. Abbott, with whom he served three years studying navigation on the East River and Long Island Sound. Upon completing his apprenticeship Mr.

Horton became a licensed pilot, being eligible to navigate in the waters of Hell Gate and Long Island Sound, and has continued in that line of pursuit up until the present time.

Captain Rochelle Horton is a member of Pelham Lodge No. 712, Free and Accepted Masons, and takes an active interest in the social and material affairs of the neighborhood wherein he resides. In 1873 Captain Horton married Martha J. Price, who was born January 8, 1851, and of this union had born to him the following children. 1. Samson W., born August 30, 1875, who upon attaining to manhood years took up his father's vocation, and is now a licensed pilot at City Island, being eligible to navigate in the waters of Hell Gate and Long Island Sound. 2. Sarah A., born March 8, 1878.

Martha J. (Price) Horton, mother of the aforementioned children, died August 22, 1886. Mr. Horton married secondly, April 25, 1888, Alvarette B. Sturgis, who was born January 5, 1864, and of this marriage were born the following children: Clara May, born March 30, 1889; Rochelle N., born February 10, 1897; Alvarette B., born June 18, 1898.

<http://www.historicpelham.com/blogarchive/Blog20090128.htm>

**Archibald Robertson**, a progressive and enterprising citizen of City Island, where he is engaged in the ship, yacht and launch building trade, is a grandson of Nicholas F. Robertson, who was a native of Scotland, came to America in 1812 and settled in one of the Canadian provinces. His son, Henry R., father of Archibald Robertson, was born at Prince Edward Island, 1815, and he married Martha Munn, who was born at Pictou, Canada, 1817.

Archibald Robertson was born at Charlottetown, province of Nova Scotia, Canada, 24 May 1842, and was there educated in the schools of his native town and at Calais, Maine. Upon attaining to manhood years he learned the ship carpenter's trade at Calais, where he followed the trade for a number of years and later removed to Hartford, Connecticut, where he again took up his profession, continuing there until 1877, when he came to City Island and here purchased lands, formerly a part of the Fordham estate, and shore rights, upon which he established his ship building plant, and by his industry and enterprise built up a successful trade in building yachts and pleasure craft. Among his patrons were some of New York's leading representative men. In addition to his commercial interests, Mr. Robertson takes an active interest in all enterprises that have for their objects the material good and welfare of the community in which he resides. He is an active member of **Pelham Lodge, No. 712**, F&AM, and also Huguenot Council, and New Rochelle Lodge, Royal Arcanum. Mr. Robertson is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church at City Island and has served as a member of the board of trustees of the same for over fifteen years. He retired from active business pursuits in 1906, and resides in a pleasant cottage on King avenue, overlooking Long Island sound.

Archibald Robertson married, at Calais, ME, 4 Oct 1870, Mary Agnes Martin, b. 4 May 1851, d/o Alexander and Jane (Wilson) Martin, both natives of Calais, Maine. Children: 1. Jessie May, b. 19 Jul 1872, m. John Spencer, and has one son, Archibald Spencer. 2. Florence, died in infancy. 3. Lawrence. 4. Annie Grace, b. at Hartford, CT, 20 Jul 1875. 5. Jennie Bell, died aged nine years. 6. Archibald, Jr., died in his second year. 7. Edith Louise, b. 24 Aug 1882. 8. Alice Martin, b. 4 Mar 1884. 9. Martha, b. 6 Feb 1888, d. 26 Sep 1904. 10. Alexander, b. 5 Feb 1891, d. in his second year. The faithful wife and mother of the aforementioned children passed away 8 Mar 1905. She was a consistent Christian lady, possessed of many excellencies of character and contributed much of her time in assisting those in want, in time of sickness, and in many other ways."

Source: Pelletreau, William S., *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York*, Vol. IV, pp. 243-45 (NY and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company 1907).

<http://kornspan.com/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I0519&tree=All>

**Jacob Springer** was born on March 9, 1861 in Moson, Hungary, the son of Franz and Katherine Springer. In 1882, at the age of 21, he left his home to seek his fortune in the United States. Because of his experience working in his father's butcher shop, he was offered, on his arrival in New York, a job as a butcher's helper in Cincinnati, Ohio. He accepted the job, but soon became tired of the long hours and meager pay. He heard that there was a lot of opportunity in the South for a hard worker, so he headed that way. He worked on a sugar plantation, in the rice fields, and on the Mississippi River. However, he soon found that the South was no place for a foreigner with a heavy accent. He was picked on constantly, and was eventually involved in a fight. A man was shot, and Jacob escaped capture by hiding in a cotton barn. He was never discovered, and finally returned to New York City where he met his future wife, Josephine.

Josephine Levy was born on May 26, 1864 in Saarbruchen, Germany, the daughter of Michael and Marie Levy. She emigrated to the United States in 1886. She and Jacob met soon after her arrival, and were married on October 16, 1887. The story that is told is that they pooled their resources which consisted of \$300.00 and together opened a butcher shop at 1317 Second Avenue in New York City. Their residence was at 1315 Second Avenue from October 1887 until the end of 1891. Their first child, Charles, was born there on March 17, 1888, five days after the blizzard of '88. Their second child, Frieda Miriam, was also born there on August 30, 1890. At the time of the birth of their third child, Gisela (Emma), they were living at 303 East 69th Street in New York City. She was born on June 29, 1892, but died there suddenly on June 3, 1897 of complications brought on by tubercular meningitis. The Springer's remained at this address until their move to City Island, in the Bronx.

In 1904, a mounted-policeman friend of Jacob who worked on City Island told him that the Island needed a good butcher. He said that the present butcher, a Dutchman, was robbing the people blind. Jacob went to see for himself, and was so impressed with City Island, that he sold his business in the "City", and moved there with little hesitation. He opened his new butcher shop at the corner of City Island Avenue and Schofield Street, (239 City Island Avenue). Although the family worked as much as eighty-five hours a week, the business thrived, and they soon found that there was much demand for their meats from the wealthy yacht owners who maintained slips on the Island.

On 30 Jan 1912, Jacob Springer joined the **Pelham Lodge No.712**, F&AM, and remained an active member for the rest of his life.

Through the years, as the business prospered, Jacob invested in local real estate. Starting with the butcher shop at #239, he eventually purchased the rest of the block on City Island Avenue to the corner of Centre Street. He then acquired #84-86 Schofield

Street. After Jacob' purchase of #30 Schofield Street about 1915, his son, Charles, and his small family moved from a small apartment to that single-family house closer to the shore. In 1927, on the adjoining lots, Jacob had built two identical brick houses; #26 for himself, his wife and widower son, Charles; and #28 for his daughter, Frieda, her husband, Alexander, and their daughter, Doris. He then retired from the butcher shop. That same year, he took a trip to Florida, liked the area around Daytona, and decided to buy a small, Spanish-style house at 845 South Ridgewood Avenue in Daytona Beach. From that point on, Jacob and his wife spent their summers on City Island in the Bronx, and their winters in Daytona Beach, Florida.

On May 8, 1936, Jacob's son, Charles, married Mabel Olsen, and the newlyweds moved into the Springer home. By this time, Josephine did little around the house, so Mabel assisted Jacob in the running of the household. About January of 1939, Josephine was diagnosed as suffering from acute senility, and she was placed in a nursing home, St. Vincent's Retreat, at Harrison, New York. On June 13, 1939, Charles and Mabel had a daughter, Alice Elaine, who became the center of interest for the entire house. On October 10, of that same year, Josephine died of complications resulting from a fall. Jacob doted over his new granddaughter; taking her for walks or take her to the pool hall where he would socialize with his friends. On January 22, 1947, he died at the age of 86, after a brief illness.

Children:

1. [Charles Springer](#), b. 17 Mar 1888, Manhattan, NY
2. [Frieda Miriam Springer](#), b. 30 Aug 1890, Manhattan, NY
3. [Gisela Springer](#), b. 29 Jun 1892

## Wieland Lodge No. 714

Warrant: ca 1872

This Lodge is listed a being of Bronx, New York, but in 1898 it is listed in the 9th Manhattan Masonic District [German], meeting at [East] 148th Street, corner of Willis Avenue [which is on the east side of the Harlem River in the Bronx].

"A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York ...," Volume 2, by Peter Ross, page 279.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA279&dq=%22Wieland+Lodge+No.+714%22&hl=en&ei=DTb\\_TYfvCKjuOgGvtp2YAw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CC8Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Wieland%20Lodge%20No.%20714%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA279&dq=%22Wieland+Lodge+No.+714%22&hl=en&ei=DTb_TYfvCKjuOgGvtp2YAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CC8Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Wieland%20Lodge%20No.%20714%22&f=false)

**Conrad Muller** - In Wieland Lodge, No. 714, New York, no one enjoys more the esteem of the brethren than Conrad Muller, who in 1897 reached the highest rung on the Lodge's official ladder by being elected its Master. To reach that honorable eminence he had given many years of earnest official work after serving as a Master of Ceremonies and as Junior Deacon. He was elected Junior Warden and held that office for three terms, and then was thrice in succession elected Senior Warden. His Masonic career dates from 1875, when he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in **Veritas Lodge, No. 734**. In the following year he withdrew from that body and **affiliated with Wieland Lodge**, in which he has won so enviable a record.

Brother Muller was born in Ninthur, Switzerland, 3 Sep 1852. At the age of nineteen he left the college of his native town, and after taking a course in theoretical mechanics became a practical machinist. In 1872 he arrived in New York and worked for some years in a number of machine shops, so as to gain as thorough a knowledge of his trade as possible. His superiority as a mechanic and his ingenuity in making practical devices to facilitate whatever work was on hand quickly became noted. This led in 1876 to his securing the position of Chief Engineer of the David Meyer Brewing Company. He is the patentee of the beer-barrel counting-machine, which automatically records the number of quarters, eighths and full kegs daily turned out of the brewery. He is also the inventor and patentee of the Excelsior Beer Filter, which is in daily use by the David Meyer Brewing Company, and many other of the principal breweries of the country. Brother Muller has not much time outside of the demands of his Lodge to hold affiliation with the usual run of organizations, but we may mention that for over ten years he has been a member of the New York Engineers' Benevolent Society.

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Ibid. page 249.

**Edward A. Acker** was made a Mason in **Citizens Lodge, No. 628**, in 1873. He soon developed a marked interest in the work of the craft and was noted for the careful and thoughtful attention he devoted to the ritual and to the business affairs of the organization, for, like all societies in this world, Masonry has its business as well as its philosophical side. After some experience in the subordinate offices he was elected Master, in 1876, and made a splendid record as an executive officer. **In 1896 he affiliated into Wieland Lodge, No. 714**. He received the Royal Arch degrees in Triune Chapter, No. 241.

Brother Acker is a native of Switzerland, having been born at Basle, 30 Jan 1849. When four years of age he was brought to New York City and received his primary education in the public schools. At the age of fourteen he began attending the free lectures in the public high schools and later was entered as a student in Columbia Law School. For three years he worked in a law office, getting an insight into the practical working of his profession, and in 1869 was admitted to the bar. A year later he started in practice on his own account and has built up a splendid connection. He is noted for his ability as a consulting lawyer, his reading in his profession is most extensive and his advice is always conservative and always given with the view of advancing the best interests of his clients. In the profession his name stands high and he has many friends among them whose friendship is itself a guaranty of a man's standing. Among those friends he values most is Frank R. Lawrence, the Past Grand Master, who delivered the craft from debt, with whom his friendship has now extended over thirty-five years.

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Ibid. page 258

**Louis Falk** - For two years Brother Falk served **Wieland Lodge, No. 714, as Master**, and has previously held all the other offices of the Lodge with the exception of Tyler. In even that capacity he is willing to act for a night or so, should the exigencies of the Lodge require it. He has never hesitated to do whatever work Wieland Lodge has assigned to him or called upon him to perform since, 6 Dec 1871, he was first introduced to the brethren as a Master Mason.

Brother Falk was born in New York City, 15 Oct 1838, and attended the public schools until 1852. Then he went into the lumber business and worked at it for some six years and then drifted into the office of a building contractor. He continued in the architect and building trade until 1890, since which he has devoted himself exclusively to the business of an architect. He has designed and constructed a large number of buildings of various styles and for a variety of purposes, in Morrisania.— buildings ranging in cost from \$3,500 to \$38,000. He built Zeltner's Hall in 1888, and Ebling's Hotel in 1868, and designed and built Karl's Park in 1867. When he first took up his residence in Morrisania, in 1850, it was simply a cornfield. Now it is one of the best built-up sections of the annexed district of New York, and with its rise Brother Falk has fully kept pace.

In the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he has long taken an active interest and is a Past Grand of Goethe Lodge, No. 193, having filled all the chairs in that body. He is also Treasurer of that Lodge and has held that office for the past eighteen years, his name is also enrolled in the Society of Exempt Firemen Benevolent Fund Association of the 23d and 24th Wards of the City of New York, and he served eleven years as Secretary of the association, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

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Ibid. page 217.

**Fred Knecht** was made a Mason in 1894 in **Wieland Lodge, No. 714**, New York, and since then has continuously served the Lodge in various offices. For one year he was Senior Master of Ceremonies, for two years was Senior Deacon, and at the annual election of 1898 he was elected Junior Warden. Those who are acquainted with the usual routine of Lodge work know in what direction all this tends and that still further advancement awaits a brother who has thus demonstrated his fitness for promotion and who has been advanced in such regular stages.

Brother Knecht was born in Bempflingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, 24 Nov 1865, and attended school there in accordance with what may be called the national custom, until he had reached the age of fourteen years. For some two years after quitting school he was engaged in the business of a nurseryman, with his father, in his native place. He then came to America and made his home in New York. In 1893 he entered into business as a cafe keeper, and has built up a successful trade.

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Ibid. page 213.

**Christian F. Schae** - This well known member of **Wieland Lodge, No. 714**, was born in Vegesack, near Bremen, Germany, 22 Jan 1854. Shortly after he had attained his fourteenth year he came to America. For twelve years he worked as a butcher in New York City, but in 1883 he engaged in business on his own account and has built up a large trade, both wholesale and retail. He is one of the founders of the Vegesack Club, a benevolent association of which he is President and which he has represented at the Plattdeutscher Volksfest, and he is Vice-President of the Bronx Bowling Club, of Morrisania. In the New York Produce Exchange he has been a member for several years, and is a director of the Union Granite Company of Weehawken. In the Harlem River Building, Loan and Savings Institution he holds the important office of treasurer. It will thus be seen that he is not only a successful man of business but that he has won the esteem and confidence of those among whom he mingles in every walk of life.

In 1891 Brother Schae was made a Mason in Wieland Lodge, and he has held in it the appointment of Senior Deacon and was elected and served as Junior Warden. He is proud of the Lodge and its association.

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Ibid. page 427.

**Robert Louis Steiner** - In 1874 Brother Steiner was raised a Master Mason in **Wieland Lodge, No. 714**, New York, and went into harness almost immediately thereafter. He served as Senior Deacon for a term and was elected Senior Warden for a year, and then was **three times elected Master**. It was during his second term that Wieland celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. He has proved a notable figure in the affairs of the Lodge for a quarter of a century, and all he has done has been work thoughtfully performed.

Brother Steiner was born in Sonneberg, Saxe-Meiningen, Germany, 5 Oct 1846. He attended the schools in his native town until 1861, when he went to the Polytechnic School at Nurnberg, Bavaria, where he remained for two years, studying modeling and designing. He then became a designer in a porcelain factory and continued to be so employed until 1865, paying especial attention to high-grade pottery and to terra-cotta work. He then went to England, but remained there only a short time, for in 1861 he came to America, landing in New York City. He went to Philadelphia, where he found artistic employment in a chandelier manufacturing establishment. In 1868 he settled in New York, and for the next ten years was engaged in designing terra-cotta work. In 1893 he assumed control of his present business—the designing and manufacturing of gas and electric light fixtures.

Outside of his business and his Lodge Brother Steiner is little seen; but his business occupies his attention closely and the work of the Lodge has proved interesting enough to occupy all his leisure. During his three terms as Master he raised the membership number from 65 to 103. When he first assumed control the treasury contained about \$300, and when he finally retired from the East it had over \$2,000 to its credit. He is now serving his second term as Vice President of the German Masonic Temple Association. He is also a member of the German Masonic Maennerchor, the Union Sanger Society and the Traveling Men's Mutual Aid Society.

## Uhland Lodge No. 735

Warrant: ca 1873

A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York ..., Volume 2, by Peter Ross, page 142.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA412&dq=%22Uhland+Lodge+No.+735%22&hl=en&ei=A5wATqv-DvS20AGw-ZW6Dg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CC8Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Uhland%20Lodge%20No.%20735%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=kWYiAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA412&dq=%22Uhland+Lodge+No.+735%22&hl=en&ei=A5wATqv-DvS20AGw-ZW6Dg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CC8Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Uhland%20Lodge%20No.%20735%22&f=false)

**Ferdinand Wieler, Jr.** - The ranks of the German Lodge in this city contain so many brethren whose lives are full of Masonic inspiration, who are so enthusiastic in all that pertains to the craft, and who are so eminently fitted for receiving all the honors which the fraternity has to bestow that whoever is singled out for recognition may be understood as fully deserving of it in every respect. Of this Ferdinand Wieler, Jr., is a notable example. In 1894 he was District Deputy for the [9th] "German District," as it is called; and, although at the time that was, for many reasons now mainly forgotten, a very delicate office to fill, he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the appointing power and of his brethren throughout the district. Since then he has proved that the receipt of a high honor did not lessen his desire for the performance of practical work, and he has continued in harness as full of enthusiasm as the youngest tyro who ever was inspired to win Masonic renown. In the German Masonic Temple, in the noble house at Tappan which is so representative of the charity of the brethren from the Fatherland, as well as in the ordinary work of his Lodge, Brother Wieler is as active to-day as any one could be who is newly putting on the harness. His services to the House as trustee have been very great, and as Secretary of the district for the past ten years it is impossible to over praise the value of his work. He was raised in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, in 1876, and passed through all its chairs to the East, where he served throughout two terms.

Brother Wieler was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, 18 Nov 1848, and when ten years of age he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, and settled in New York. After completing his education in the public schools he went to work with his father in the meat business and has followed it ever since. On 1 Aug 1872, he "hung up his own sign" and has won, as he deserved, marked success, for in business as in Masonry his energy and progressiveness have been equally marked. His initiation in Masonry was probably due to the example of his father, Ferdinand Wieler, Sr., who was a member of **Harmony Lodge, No. 199**, this city, for 27 years.

But the social fraternizing spirit and generous impulses of our good brother have not been confined alone to our order. He has acquired membership in the Knights of Honor, as a charter member of Metropolitan Lodge, A. O. U. A., one of the organizers of the German Butchers' Guard, and in the Central Turn, Yerein, the Butchers and Marketmen's Protective Association, and the Cherokee Club he is as popular as in the craft. His home life is a happy one, and he and his good lady see around them five sons and three daughters, as fair a family circle as could gladden the hearts of devoted parents.

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Ibid. page 425.

**Frank Baehser** - Brother Baehser, who at present holds the post of Junior Deacon in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, was initiated, passed and raised in that fine body of Masonic workers in 1893. Since then he has followed closely its work and business, and in both has taken an active and intelligent part.

Since 1883 Brother Baehser has been a resident of the United States. He was born at Walderstadt, Wurtemberg, Germany, 15 May 1850, and when he left school, in his fourteenth year, went to learn the trade of a painter and interior decorator. He worked for a year in New York and then went to Florida, where he remained for a couple of years, when he returned to New York, and has since made it his home. He has now been in business a considerable time, and has built up a large trade, and one that keeps steadily growing.

In many social and benevolent organizations Brother Baehser takes quite a prominent part. He is a member of Columbus Lodge, No. 302, I. O. O. F.; of the Knights and Ladies of Honor, Eintracht Lodge, No. 686; I. O. O. F. Encampment; Vereinigten Brueder Lodge, No. 81, and the Schlachterner Quartette.

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Ibid. page 227.

**Henry Egner** is justly proud of having been one of those who in the Civil War carried arms in defence of their native country. He served three years in the **133d New York Volunteers**, and was for part of that time Sergeant of Company H. In the siege of Port Hudson he bore himself with especial gallantry, followed Sheridan in the famous campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, when Early's army was demoralized, and he was, among other engagements, in the battles of Cedar Creek and Winchester. Like most old soldiers he delights now in fighting his battles over again with one who has marched to victory with the boys in blue. He is a member of Sumner Post, G. A. R., and rarely misses any of its meetings. He has been a member of **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, for many years, and is at present its Tyler.

Henry Egner was born in New York City, 26 Oct 1840, and received a good education in the public schools. He was for years in the fish trade, but latterly has been engaged as a clerk in the fire and life insurance business. In Uhland Lodge he has a friend in each of the brothers, and he does everything that lies in his power to make that body of Masons successful and popular.

EGNER, HENRY - Age 21 years. Enlisted [133rd NY Inf. Vols.], 27 Aug 1862, at New York city, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. H, 24 Sep 1862; promoted Sergeant, prior to Oct 1864; mustered out with company, 6 Jun 1865, at Washington, DC.

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Ibid. page 251.

**William Fischer** - Brother Fischer is one of the best known brethren in the German district and in the craft generally in New York. He was born in the city of Darmstadt, Province of Hessen, Germany, 13 Jun 1847, and was brought, by his parents, to America when only five years of age. He attended the public schools in the 9th Ward of New York until he was eleven years of age and then became apprenticed to the butcher business. When twenty-three years of age he opened a butcher's shop on his own account and carried on that trade for seventeen years with considerable success. Then he was compelled to give it up, on account of ill health, and entered the general insurance business, in which he has now been engaged for a number of years.

Outside of the Masonic fraternity Brother Fischer's time is entirely devoted to his business, but to the service of the fraternity he cheerfully gives all the time it demands. He is a most enthusiastic Mason and never considers wasted any labor exerted on its behalf. He was initiated, passed and raised in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, in 1875, and advanced as Senior Master of Ceremonies, Junior Warden and Senior Warden until he was elected **Master**. In that important office he served for **three successive terms**,—he was the only brother of the Lodge so honored; and under his administration the Lodge prospered as it had never done before. During his tenure of the Mastership some twenty members were added to the roll by initiation. He received the Royal Arch degrees in Union Chapter, New York, but his heart is with Uhland Lodge, and he is as zealous a worker in its behalf now as ever he was. At present he holds in its official roster the dignified position of Orator.

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Ibid. page 412.

**Adolph Gengis** - Brother Gengis, who is now serving his second term as one of the Masters of Ceremonies in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, was made a Mason in that Lodge as recently as 1896; so he may be said to have been in harness since he signed the by-laws and so became eligible to office. Beginning the round of official preferment thus early, it is safe to say that he will continue to rise until he obtains a prominent position in the Lodge. It is seldom that brethren who begin thus early do not obtain the suffrages of their fellow members for any office to which they may aspire.

By occupation Brother Gengis is a baker, which trade he learned in Switzerland. He was born at Eschenz, Canton Thurgau, in that country, 11 Nov 1849, and worked at his trade there until 1882, when he came to this country. Soon afterward he opened a bakery. In 1884 he removed to 424 West 42d Street, New York, where he has built up a splendid trade and won a high reputation as a business man. He is a member of Uhland Maennerchor, of Santo Maennerchor, the New York Schiitzen Bunde, and of Columbus Lodge, No. 302, I. O. O. F.

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Ibid. page 363.

**George Gerlach** - Brother George Gerlach was born at Hitzeroede, Germany, 29 Jul 1835. At the age of fourteen he left school and entered into business life. He had experiences in various lines and for a year or two he was a commercial traveler for a general merchandise establishment. In 1856 he went to England, where he remained for ten years, engaging in a number of occupations but always managing to keep hold of something, never for any length of time belonging to the "army of the unemployed." He crossed the Atlantic in 1866, and settling in New York opened a grocery store. For eleven years he so continued, getting along slowly, but he then grew tired of the monotony, gave groceries up and went into the produce business. His progress there was most satisfactory and he remained engaged in it for some ten years. Then with a wide acquaintance and a sufficiency of capital he went into the real-estate business and was very successful. He is still in that line, but for the past year or two has been steadily withdrawing from active affairs and more and more retiring to enjoy in private life fruits of his working years.

In 1874 Brother Gerlach was made a Mason in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, and acted as one of its Masters of Ceremonies for four years. He is not much of a society man, but his lodge never fails to arouse his enthusiasm. He can be depended on at all seasons to do his share—more even than his share—to further its work and increase its harmony and its spirit of fraternity.

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Ibid. page 412.

**John Kramer** - For two years Brother Kramer has held the office of Junior Deacon of **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, in which body he was made a Mason in 1894. The year following his being "raised" he was appointed one of the Stewards of the Lodge, so he may be said to have started on a career of office-holding almost as soon as he was qualified to do so by signing the bylaws of Uhland Lodge. He has proved a faithful official, and his personal popularity among the members of the Lodge seems to increase each year. Brother Kramer was born at Greisarbach, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, 1 Jun 1865. At the age of fourteen he left school and went to work on a farm for two years, when he came to America. For a short time he tried his luck in Texas, but concluded to settle in the North. So he took up his residence in New York and opened a meat market, which he has now managed successfully for the past ten years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Hessen-Darmstadt Volksfest Verein, the Darmstadter Marines, and several other social organizations.

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Ibid. page 458.

**Jacob Loewer** - One notable feature in connection with **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, is that while it is one of the most pronounced German Lodges in the German District, devoted to the traditions of the Fatherland to the very core, most of its officers are American-born. True, they are all of German descent and speak German as their mother tongue, and take a lead in all things that promise to advance the prestige of the German brethren in Masonic teaching and Masonic charity, yet the fact remains that they are proud of being born American citizens. In this Lodge the subject of this brief sketch was initiated into Masonry in 1892, and as soon as he was declared a Master Mason he threw himself into the work of the Lodge and became what might be called a Masonic

student with remarkable zeal; and it was not long before that personal popularity which he had won outside the fraternity followed him within its tiled doors. In 1894 and 1895 he was elected Junior Warden, and in 1896 Senior Warden, while he was elected **Master in 1897 and 1898**. He was the youngest man ever elected to preside over a Lodge in the German District, but his conduct of the office has justified, more than justified, in fact, the confidence of his brethren. In February, 1898, Uhland Lodge celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and the perfect arrangements and the memorable proceedings which marked that event were mainly inspired by Brother Loewer, and to his efforts were mainly due the wonderful success of the occasion,—an occasion which is still the subject of talk among all who were present. Brother Loewer, it may be mentioned, is a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, in which he has received the **thirty-third degree**.

Jacob Loewer was born in New York City, 1 Jul 1867. After receiving a good commercial education he entered the brewing establishment of his father and obtained a thorough knowledge of the brewery business in all its branches, and he is now Secretary of the V. Loewer Brewing Company. Brother Loewer is a Noble of Mecca Temple, Mystic Shrine, and a member of the Home Circle Benevolent Society. In politics he is a Democrat, and is a member of the General and Organization Committees of Tammany Hall. He is also Second Vice President of the Tecumseh Club.



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 Ibid. page 419.

**Jacob Mayer** - For some fifteen years Brother Mayer has been a member of **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**,— the Lodge in which he first received Masonic light; and while he has held no office,—he has desired none in fact,—he has nevertheless impressed the brethren with a sense of his enthusiasm as a Mason and of his pride in the tenets, principles and practices of his Lodge. No brother is more interested in the progress of Uhland Lodge, by none has its prosperity been more closely watched or more heartily rejoiced over. Of course the craft needs officers, it needs leaders, and these it has in abundance; but the vast majority of the 100,000 Masons in the State of New York is composed of quiet, effective workers such as he has proved to be.

In his native city of Meiglenbock, Germany, where Jacob Mayer was born 29 Jul 1845, he learned the trade of brewer. In 1871 he came to America and for a time found employment at his trade in Brooklyn. For the past twenty-four years he has been master brewer in the Bellhamer & Schmid Brewing Company, a fact which speaks for itself as to his professional diligence and proficiency. He is a member of the United Order of Workmen, the Deutcher Kriegerbund, Independent Schuetzen Corps, the Riverside Quartette Club and other social and musical organizations.

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**John Merz** - For over twenty-six years Brother John Merz, of **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, was engaged in business as a baker in New York City and succeeded in amassing a comfortable fortune, sufficient to enable him, in 1895, to leave the cares, troubles and anxieties of business behind and retire to private life. He was born at Endersbach, Wurtemberg, Germany, 4 Oct 1832. On leaving school, when he had turned his fourteenth year, he worked for a time in a vineyard, but concluded to cross the Atlantic and bent all his energies to accomplish that end. In his twenty-first year he left his native land, and, settling in New York, learned the baking trade. In 1869 he started in business as a baker and was successful right from the beginning.

He was made a Mason in Uhland Lodge, 6 May 1877, and has taken a most active interest in its progress ever since. At present he is one of the Trustees, having been elected to that honorable office by the votes of his brethren in December, 1897. Outside of the Lodge he belongs to no organization and believes now that he has the assured means of "taking life easily and comfortably."

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 Ibid. page 234.

**Anton Meier** - Brother Meier, oven builder and boiler setter, has been for many years a member of **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**. He was made a Mason in that Lodge, and he rendered it good service as Senior Deacon during the year he held that appointment. He is devoted to Masonry and never misses an opportunity, by attendance at his Lodge or by conversation with his brethren, of showing that his interest is as active as when he first entered the tiled doors of Uhland Lodge.

Brother Meier was born at Frohnhausen, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, 5 Feb 1840. In 1866 he came to America, and, settling in New York, began business as an oven builder and boiler setter. He at once got a large trade, and his services were in request all over the city. He did work for nearly all the large bakeries and his services in this line have been so successful that he is regarded as an expert. In a city like New York there are a hundred things to think of, to plan for, or guard against, in the construction and erection of a baker's oven or a large boiler intended for manufacturing purposes, and of these Brother Meier has made a long and intelligent study, and has evolved solutions of the various problems which have been successfully put into practice. For some years he was a member of Washington Rifles, held the office of Captain, but resigned, and now belongs to no organization outside the craft with the exception of the Bakers' Society.

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Ibid. page 381.

**Andrew Neumann** - Brother Neumann was made a Mason in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, New York, in 1896, and has twice been appointed one of its Stewards, and has recently been elected Master of Ceremonies. He has taken much interest in the work of the Lodge—ritualistic and other—and has proved a capable and thoughtful officer. He was born in Heldenbergen, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, 13 Jul 1864, and after leaving school went to Frankfurt and learned the trade of painter and decorator. When nineteen years of age he came to America and settling in New York City soon found employment, and has made it his home here ever since. In 1892 he began business for himself, and has been quite successful, doing a large trade and, it seems to those who have watched his progress, doing each year a superior class of work. Brother Neumann is a member of quite a number of social and benevolent organizations, including the Foresters of America.

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Ibid. page 223.

**Frank O. Schellenberg** - Brother Schellenberg was born in Saxony, Germany, 18 Dec 1850. At the age of fourteen, after his common school and three years' training in high school had been completed, he entered a mercantile establishment and remained there for three years. Then he came to New York City. For twenty years he was foreman in the weaving department of the E. S. Higgins Carpet Company, and then became clerk, and three years later manager of the Murray Hill Baths at 113 West 42nd Street. He is very popular among a large circle of warmly attached friends, and for a number of years was very prominent in a number of social organizations of one sort or another, but has managed to withdraw from them all as he finds his business requirements demand more and more of his time and attention.

But in Masonry he is still as enthusiastic as when, in 1875, he was first brought to light in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**. He was one of its Stewards for one term and a Master of Ceremonies for another, but his best work for the Lodge has been done during the past thirteen years, in which he held the position of Secretary, and has often demonstrated that he well deserves the term of "faithful," which is the highest commendation that can be paid to one holding that time-honored and important office in a Masonic Lodge.

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Ibid. page 267

**George Weisensee**. - In 1895 Brother Weisensee was initiated, passed and raised in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, and as he is now serving his second term as one of the Stewards it can be understood that he lost no time after signing the by-laws in getting a hold on the official ladder. He has proved a loyal, courteous and painstaking officer and further preferment awaits him if he so wills.

Born in New York City, on 6 Apr 1855, Brother Weisensee passed through the usual training afforded by the public schools until he was some sixteen years of age, and then closed his educational training by a course at Packard's Business College, extending over 18 months. He then secured a position with Lindenmayer Brothers, wholesale dealers in paper, where he remained for a couple of years. Then he accepted a position in the brewery of A. Fink & Son, and remained in that establishment until 1893, when he entered on business for himself as a bottler, at 237 West 37th Street. He is a member of Goethe Lodge, No. 277, in the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of the Hessen-Darmstadt Verein, a social club and a bowling club, of which he has been President since 1897.

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Ibid. page 453.

**Louis Wendel, Jr.** - In **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, New York, no man is better known or more popular than the prominent member of the New York bar whose name heads this sketch. Louis Wendel was born in New York City, 2 May 1868, and after obtaining a good common-school and academic education, he attended Packard's Business College for a year. Then, having determined on adopting the legal profession, he entered Columbia Law School. He rapidly distinguished himself as a student, and in due time passed the usual severe examinations thoroughly and was graduated in the class of 1888. A year later he was admitted to the bar and since then has been engaged in active practice in New York. In 1893 he became a partner in the then newly organized firm of Quincy, Wendel & Robson, and their elegant office in the Stewart Building has become the legal center for many important interests.

Brother Wendel is a member of the Washington Heights Association, of which organization he is counsel. This is a social and political society, composed principally of property owners on Washington Heights who are banded together for the purpose of protecting their interests and defending the amenity of their homes and of the district. It has accomplished a world of good in these directions. He is also counsel for the United Order of Protection, and for the Sick and Life Benefit Association of New York, which is primarily a society insuring sick benefits to its members as well as the usual life insurance features. Brother Wendel is an intensely practical man, indulging in no visionary schemes, and believing in people helping themselves along the rugged road of life; and he is a firm believer in the good that can be accomplished in any direction by the power of cooperation. He is conservative as a lawyer, shrewd and safe in his opinions, does not believe in going into court, but when he does he pushes a case to the end with the most indomitable energy and with a full use of every legal weapon.

Brother Wendel was made a Mason in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, in February, 1896. He quickly interested himself in the work (Uhland transacts all its business and presents the ritual in the German tongue), and was soon marked out as a valuable member to whom promotion was due. In the following year he was appointed Senior Deacon, and acquitted himself so perfectly that at the election of 1897 he was elected Junior Warden, the office he at present holds. That further promotion is in sight goes without saying, and we believe, from the interest he has shown and the Masonic enthusiasm he has developed, that Brother Wendel will be called in time to higher honors than his Lodge can give, and that he will be entitled to wear "the purple of the fraternity" as an officer of the Grand Lodge.

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Ibid. page 284.

**Ernst Zobel** - In 1895 Brother Zobel was initiated, passed and raised in **Uhland Lodge, No. 735**, and as since then he has served two years as a Master of Ceremonies it can be seen that he lost no time in becoming one of the recognized workers in that zealous body of craftsmen. The office of Master of Ceremonies, while a subordinate one, is one that is of vital importance, because if it is carelessly or slovenly filled the result is not only detrimental to the Lodge most immediately concerned, but it also is apt to have a detrimental effect upon the craft at large. This doctrine has been proclaimed by those in authority for many years, and it can never be proclaimed too loudly. That Brother Zobel has faithfully and carefully and intelligently performed all the duties of the office, the brethren of Uhland Lodge can all bear testimony.

Like most of the members of Uhland, Brother Zobel is a native of Germany, having been born at Blaubeuren, Wurtemberg, 22 Apr 1853. Leaving school with a good practical education, he learned the trade of machinist and worked at it in Germany until 1872, when he came to America. He readily found employment in New York City and continued to follow his trade, working in various shops until 1881. In that year he engaged in the manufacture of brewers' pitch, and as soon as he saw that the venture was certain to be a success he secured extensive premises, in 1883, at 112 to 116 Second Avenue, Brooklyn. He is a member of the Schwaebischer Saengerbund of New York City and of the Third Avenue Bowling Club of Brooklyn.

### Hebron Lodge No. 813

Warrant: 1895

Meeting Location: City Island Temple

Meeting Days: 2nd Thursday

Lodge website: <http://www.bronxmasons.com/Lodges/813.htm> [basically little of anything on this website]

Officers 2009 - 2010

Master	W.'. Ronald Estes
SW	R.'.W.'. Joseph Zimmerman
JW	R.'.W.'. Joseph Manzi
Treas	W.'. George Klein
Secy	R.'.W.'. Joel Garfield
SD	Bro. David Estes
JD	Bro. Robert Baer
SMC	W.'. Mitchell Auerbach
JMC	R.'.W.'. Bernard Rosenberg
Marshal	Bro. Michael Estes
Stewards	Bro. Allan Shiller, Bro. Thomas Terpos
Chaplain	W.'. Martin Wattenberg
Trustees	W.'. Mitchell Auerbach, Bro. David Estes, R.'.W.'. Bernard Rosenberg

The Lodge is over 100 years old. We presently have 23 members, of which 11 are active in the district and in the Lodge. The average age of membership is 42. We boast 2 past DDGM's, Joseph Manzi and Joseph Zimmerman. Also we have had, 2 past Grand Representatives, Joel Garfield and Bernard Rosenberg. We presently have, as a member, the Grand Sword Bearer, Arnold Auerbach. We currently have a number of active Bronx committee chairmen, George Klein, bloodbank; Ronald Estes, Toys for Tots; Joseph Manzi, District Leader; and Bernard Rosenberg, Welfare Committee.



*George Hermann Sundermann*

[http://books.google.com/books?id=XHrxgFYISmYC&pg=PA17&dq=%22Hebron+Lodge+no.+813%22&hl=en&ei=QUUBTrbxJefw0gHMyo2QDg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CEUQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22Hebron%20Lodge%20no.%20813%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=XHrxgFYISmYC&pg=PA17&dq=%22Hebron+Lodge+no.+813%22&hl=en&ei=QUUBTrbxJefw0gHMyo2QDg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CEUQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22Hebron%20Lodge%20no.%20813%22&f=false) page 16.

**George Hermann Sundermann**, a worthy and representative citizen of Wakefield borough of Bronx, where he has become well and favorably known, was born in the town of Hambargen, which is located near the city of Bremen, in the province of Hanover. Germaine, 20 Feb 1853, and is the son of Hermann and Meta (Mencken) Sundermann.

Herman Sundermann, the father of George H. Sundermann, was a miller by trade and occupation, and pursued the same line throughout the active years of his life. He died in his native land April 10, 1887, and his wife passed away in the fatherland July 2, 1904, aged over fourscore years. They were both of the Lutheran faith, and were highly respected by all their friends and acquaintances. By their union in marriage they had born to them a family of ten children, as follows: Adelheid. Frederick. Henry, George Hermann, Rebecca, Martin, Annie, and three who died in early life, two having been twins. The first five of the above mentioned children came to the United States and took up their residence here. Frederick came to .Wakefield, Westchester county, New York, in 1874, and there purchased the establishment on the White Plains road known as the "Half Way

House." In 1877 he sold the same to his brother, George Hermann, and then returned to the fatherland, where he died July 19, 1887.

George Hermann Sundermann received his educational training in the schools of his native place, which he left at the age of thirteen, after being confirmed under special examination, and then came to the United States with his brother-in-law, Hermann Voos. He settled in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, where he became engaged in the grocery and provision trade, continuing in this employment up to 1877, when he engaged in the bottling business. May 1, 1877, he became proprietor of the "Half Way House." on the White Plains road, Wakefield, town of Fastchester, and in 1885 he purchased the property where he has continued to reside to the present time (1905). During this period of over a quarter of a century Mr. Sundermann has done much in a material way for the progress and advancement of the neighborhood wherein he resides. He has at all times taken an active interest in such local enterprises as had for their object the good and welfare of the neighborhood. Fraternally. Mr. Sundermann is an active member of Hebron Lodge, No. 813, Free and Accepted Masons. He was a member of the Fifth Regiment National Guard of New York, under Colonel Spencer, until 1880, when he was honorably discharged. He has served as volunteer fireman in Nereid Engine Company, No. 1, up till the time of annexation. He is now an active member of Einheidt Lodge, No. 461, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Mt Vernon, New York. He has taken an active interest in local public affairs and has served as a member of the Board of Village Trustees of Wakefield for two years, up to the time of annexation.

On May 3, 1877, he was married at his present residence to Adelheid Wellbrock, born July 28, 1854, daughter of Martin and Catharine Wellbrock, both of whom were natives of the province of Hanover. Germany, and of this marriage have been born the following children: 1. Matilda, born May 7, 1880. 2. George Hermann, born February 16, 1882, died in infancy. 3. H. Frederick, born April 29, 1883. 4. George Hermann (2d), born April 8, 1886. 5. Meta C., born June 25, 1888. 6. Herman, born June 25, 1890. Mr. Sundermann and his family attend the Lutheran church at Mt. Vernon, Westchester county, New York.

### **Bronx Lodge No. 860**

Warrant: 7 May 1908  
Forfeit: 10 Oct 1928

[http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/10,000\\_famous\\_freemasons/Volume\\_4\\_Q\\_to\\_Z.htm](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/10,000_famous_freemasons/Volume_4_Q_to_Z.htm)

Albert B. Rossdale U.S. Congressman to 67th Congress, 1921-23, from 23rd N.Y. dist. b. Oct. 23, 1878 in N.Y.C. Was proprietor of Rossdale Co., wholesale jewelry. Was post office clerk in N.Y.C., 1900-10, and former president of National Federation of Post Office Clerks. Took an active interest in post office affairs and effected various reforms in the postal service. He long advocated the enactment of the present pension system for government employees. Became member of Bronx Lodge No. 860, Bronx, N.Y., receiving degrees on Oct. 27, 1909; Jan. 12, 26, 1910. This lodge forfeited charter in 1927.

### **Azure Lodge No. 868**

Warrant: ca 1909  
Azure 868 merged with a became Pelham 712, 12 May 1972

### **Trowel Lodge No. 873**

Warrant: ca 1910  
Trowel 873 consolidated with Gavel 703 to form Gavel-Trowel 703, 10 Dec 1971  
Angle 988 consolidated with Guiding Star to form Guiding Star-Angle 565, 20 May 1977;  
Hopewell 596 consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;  
Marion 278 consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesagaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;  
Otesaga-Marion 278 consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;  
Equality 940 consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;  
Hopewell-True Course 596 consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;  
Gavel-Trowel 703 consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

### **Dante Lodge No. 919**

Warrant: ca 1914  
Archimede 935 consolidated with Roma 854 to be known as Archimede-Roma 854, 1 Dec 1987;  
Renaissance 1121 consolidated and became Archimede-Roma 854, 1 Nov 1988;  
Dante 919 consolidated with and became Archimede-Roma 854, 20 Apr 1994

### **Equality Lodge No. 940**

Warrant: ca 1916  
Angle 988 consolidated with Guiding Star to form Guiding Star-Angle 565, 20 May 1977;  
Hopewell 596 consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;  
Marion 278 consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesagaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;  
Otesaga-Marion 278 consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;  
**Equality 940** consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;  
Hopewell-True Course 596 consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;  
Gavel-Trowel 703 consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

1920 Carl F. Price, Master

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110420/NEWS0301/304209998/-1/SITEMAP>

**Walter G. Gill**, a 54 year resident of Pearl River, NY, died Monday, 18 Apr 2011. Mr. Gill was employed by Lederle Labs, in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Department now Pfizer of Pearl River for 10 years, retiring in 1987. Mr. Gill was born 21 Mar 1922 in Manhattan to Julian and Myrtle Brace Gill. On 4 Aug 1945 he married Rose E. Moore in Bronx, NY. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 attaining the rank of Sergeant. He received many medals, including the Bronze Star while fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, over in Germany, France, and Austria.

He was Master of **Equality Lodge No. 940** in 1963 and still was a member up to his death, now the lodge merged with Guiding Star-Angle Lodge No. 565. Locally he was a member of the Pearl River Seniors Club B.

Mr. Gill will be remembered for being a loving, caring, kind-hearted gentle man, full of humor, who loved to sing off key and who loved to tease everybody, and mostly loved by all. He is survived by his wife, Rose; daughter, Nancy Rose Villa and her husband, Edward Villa Sr. and his son, Walter C. Gill and his wife, Deborah Gill; six grandchildren: Donna Villa, Barbara Goldfarb, Edward Villa, Sean Gill and wife, Madeline, Joshua Gill and wife, Victoria and Peter Gill and wife, Kim and six great grands, Nicole and Tyler Jellema, Kylie Villa and Emma Rose Gill, Cayden Gill, and Joshua David Gill Jr. He is predeceased by his brothers: Leonard, George, and Ivan Gill and sister, Vivian Hanninen, plus his beloved grandson, Anthony John Villa.

### Angle Lodge No. 988

Warrant: 1922

Angle 988

Hopewell 596

Marion 278

Otesaga-Marion 278

**Equality 940**

Hopewell-True Course 596

Gavel-Trowel 703

consolidated with Guiding Star to form Guiding Star-Angle 565, 20 May 1977;  
consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;  
consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesagaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;  
consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;  
consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;  
consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;  
consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

### Eternal Lodge No. 989

Warrant: 1922

**Eternal 989**

Eden 1039

Samaritan-Eternal 1035

consolidated with Samaritan 1035 to form Samaritan Eternal 1035, 8 Jun 1977  
consolidated with and became Samaritan-Eternal No. 1035, 17 Sep 1991  
merged with and became Pelham 712, 21 Oct 2009

### Nathan Hale Lodge No. 1006

Warrant: ca 1922

Level 914

Nathan Hale-Level 1006

consolidated with **Nathan Hale 1006** to become Nathan Hale Level 1006, 1 Jan 1979;  
consolidated with and became Joshua 890, 1 Dec 1988



14 karat Life Member Card of W. Irving A. Pelikan  
'signed by' Abraham Grossman, Master 1933

### Great Light Lodge No. 1007

Warrant: ca 1922

### Fordham Lodge No. 1012

Warrant: ca 1923

**Fordham 1012** merged with and became Otesaga 1050, 1 May 1956

## **Samaritan Lodge No. 1035**

Warrant: ca 1924

Eternal 989 consolidated with **Samaritan 1035** to form Samaritan Eternal 1035, 8 Jun 1977

Eden 1039 consolidated with and became Samaritan-Eternal No. 1035, 17 Sep 1991

Samaritan-Eternal 1035 merged with and became Pelham 712, 21 Oct 2009

## **Samaritan-Eternal Lodge No. 1035**

Eternal 989 consolidated with Samaritan 1035 to form Samaritan Eternal 1035, 8 Jun 1977

Eden 1039 consolidated with and became Samaritan-Eternal No. 1035, 17 Sep 1991

**Samaritan-Eternal 1035** merged with and became Pelham 712, 21 Oct 2009

## **Eden Lodge No. 1039**

Eternal 989 consolidated with Samaritan 1035 to form Samaritan Eternal 1035, 8 Jun 1977

**Eden 1039** consolidated with and became Samaritan-Eternal No. 1035, 17 Sep 1991

Samaritan-Eternal 1035 merged with and became Pelham 712, 21 Oct 2009

## **Otesaga Lodge No. 1050**

Fordham 1012

merged with and became Otesaga 1050, 1 May 1956

Angle 988

consolidated with Guiding Star to form Guiding Star-Angle 565, 20 May 1977;

Hopewell 596

consolidated with True Course 1077 to form Hopewell-True Course 596, 20 Sep 1978;

Marion 278

consolidated with **Otesaga 1050** to form Otesaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;

Otesaga-Marion 278

consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;

Equality 940

consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;

Hopewell-True Course 596

consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;

Gavel-Trowel 703

consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

## **True Course Lodge No. 1077**

Angle 988

consolidated with Guiding Star to form Guiding Star-Angle 565, 20 May 1977;

Hopewell 596

consolidated with **True Course 1077** to form **Hopewell-True Course 596**, 20 Sep 1978;

Marion 278

consolidated with Otesaga 1050 to form Otesaga-Marion 278, 2 Jan 1980;

Otesaga-Marion 278

consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 15 Dec 1988;

Equality 940

consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 17 Aug 1993;

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consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 14 Mar 1996;

Gavel-Trowel 703

consolidated with and became Guiding Star-Angle 565, 4 Sep 2007

## **Kosciuszko Lodge No. 1085**

Warrant: 3 May 1928

Meets at 71 West 23rd Street, Manhattan, 10th Floor, French Doric Room; 3rd Wednesday

Lodge websites: <http://www.bronxmasons.com/Lodges/1085.htm> and [http://www.kosciuszkomason.com/index\\_a.html](http://www.kosciuszkomason.com/index_a.html)

Officers 2009 - 2010

Master W.'. Tadeusz "Ted" Olsztyn

SW Bro. Derrick Komorowski

JW Bro. Mieczyslaw "Mietko" Rudek

Treas W.'. Janusz M. Krajnik

Secy V.'.W.'. Christopher Winnicki

Kosciuszko Lodge No. 1085 is one of the older lodges in the Bronx District. Their individual website is available through the link above and is available in both Polish and English.

The opening of the initial meeting of Kosciuszko Lodge, was accomplished on the evening of June 6, 1927, at the Old Fraternal Hall located at 337 East Fordham Road in the Bronx.

The event was heralded as the most important and unique in the annals of Freemasonry, since Kosciuszko Lodge emerged as the first Lodge composed of men of Polish and Slavic descent in the United States of America.

R.W. John L. Little, District Deputy Grand Master of the Bronx District, read the Articles of Dispensation and Kosciuszko Lodge U.D. began to function.

Kosciuszko Lodge was welcomed into the Bronx District and assured of wholehearted cooperation by a number of distinguished craftsmen. W. Philip Wall, in the name of Trowel Lodge No. 873, presented the Lodge with Wardens Columns. Excellent Comp. Alfred Gatow, High Priest of Ivy Chapter No. 238, R.A.M. presented the Ballot Box. W. Harry Aery and W. Gustav Fausel, on behalf of Angle Lodge No. 988, presented a set of Working Tools. An American Flag was presented to the Lodge by W. Paul L. Odell on behalf of the True Course Lodge No. 1077. There were tears in the eyes of those Charter Members whose lifelong dream was finally realized. There was faith and hope in their hearts, that future member would build Kosciuszko Lodge into a great and lasting segment of our beloved fraternity. One year later, with probationary period over, Kosciuszko Lodge U.D. was officially born as Kosciuszko Lodge No. 1085, Free and Accepted Masons. On the night of May 31, 1928, R.W. John Lecky, District Deputy Grand

Master of the Bronx District and acting for the Grand Master, the Most Worshipful John A. Dutton, presented the Grand Lodge Charter to Kosciuszko's first Master of the Lodge W. John A. Wasilewski.

With the Fraternal Hall filled to capacity and number of Grand Lodge dignitaries in attendance, the following officers were installed:

Worshipful John A. Wasilewski	Master
Bro. Walter A. Klass	SW
Bro. Paul Kawecki	JW
Bro. Karol Folwarczny	Secy
Bro. Emil S. Brykczynski	Treas
Bro. Rudolph Bobermin	SD
Bro. Peter Falkiewicz	JD
Bro. Frank Golankiewicz	SMC
Bro. Konstany Orłowski	JMC
Bro. Stephen Zablocki	Sr Steward
Bro. Walter Mucha	Jr Steward
Bro. Nikodem Zarski	Marshal
Bro. Henry Bauer	Tiler

The first important event of Kosciuszko Lodge took place on August 15, 1929. With W. John A. Wasilewski presiding, the Lodge honored four of its stalwart friends of the Lodge, by bestowing Honorary Memberships upon R.W. Ossian Lang; R.W. Edward Feih; R.W. John Lecky and R.W. Robert B. Wilson.

In addition, each of the Honorary Members was presented with a gift to commemorate the event.

Another important event was recorded when Brother Emil S. Brykczynski, Treasurer of the Lodge, donated a sum of \$300.00 to the Grand Lodge Library for the purchase of books on Polish Freemasonry. In presenting the gift to the Library, Brother Brykczynski was accompanied by a delegation of Kosciuszko Lodge members and the Brethren of the Bronx District.

The first dinner-dance of the Lodge was held on March 1, 1930, attended by many members and friends of Kosciuszko Lodge. The guest of Honor was Dr. M. Marchlewski, Consul General of Poland in New York. To commemorate the event, Dr. Marchlewski presented to the Lodge a medal of Adam Mickiewicz, Poland's great poet. The medal was sculptured by Antoine Bourdelle and was accepted for the Lodge by W. John A. Wasilewski. The medal was exhibited in the Grand Lodge Library for many years.

The Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of the State of New York, officially recognized the Grand Lodge of Poland at its 151st Communication held May 3, 4, and 5, 1932. The recognition of the Grand Lodge of Poland paved the way for mutual brotherly relations between the Masons of Poland and our Kosciuszko Lodge.

The most impressive ceremony in our Lodge occurred on February 20, 1933 at which time R.W. Emil S. Brykczynski was presented with his commission as Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Poland near the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. In the presence of M.W. Christopher C. Mollenhauer, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, the Commission was presented by R. W. Walter C. Martin, District Deputy Grand Master, the Jewel by R.W. Robert B. Wilson, and the Apron by R.W. Edward Feih.

At the Annual Communication of December 9, 1938, W. Stanley Ozimek was elected Master; Brother Casimir H. Brykczynski - Senior Warden; Brother Joseph B. Barrett - Junior Warden; Brother Frank Golankiewicz - Treasurer and Brother Thaddeus V. Ziambianski - Secretary. The election night also marked the end of Kosciuszko's tenth year of existence. Although, numerically still the smallest Lodge in the Bronx District, registering but 56 members, the spirit and enthusiasm among members continued to prevail.

The 400th Anniversary of the death of Nicholas Copernicus, the Polish Astronomer, was observed by the Lodge on May 14, 1943. W. Henry Archacki, Master of the Lodge, arranged an outstanding program. Dr. Ludwig Krzyzanowski, Managing Editor of "New Europe" delivered the principal address.

At the meeting of September 10, 1943, a memorial service was held for two of Kosciuszko's Charter Members. Grief stricken, members of the Lodge paid high tribute to W. John A. Wasilewski, Kosciuszko's first Master and R.W. Emil S. Brykczynski, past Master and Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Poland, who were called to the Grand Lodge on High on May 9 and August 11 respectively.

The 15th Anniversary of Kosciuszko Lodge was observed on November 12, 1943. A beautiful 36 page Historical Brochure compiled and written by W. Henry Archacki, was published and distributed to all attending the meeting. The Brochure also included an article written by W. Henry Archacki entitled "A Brief History of Polish Freemasonry." Among the many Masonic dignitaries present were M. W. Charles H. Johnson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York R.W. Victor Clump, District Deputy Grand Master and many others.

The 15th Anniversary was widely publicized in the several daily papers as well as in number of Masonic periodicals. The New York Masonic Outlook printed the following in its January 1944 issue:

"Kosciuszko Lodge No.1085 F. & A.M. of the Bronx Masonic District has had, for many years, the unique distinction of being the only Polish Lodge in the world. When the 151st Communication of Grand Lodge of New York, recognized the newly formed Grand Lodge of Poland, it marked the first re-birth of Polish Masonry since 1820. Recognition of the Grand Lodge of Poland also brought recognition to Kosciuszko Lodge in 1933, when the late R.W. Emil S. Brykczynski, was appointed Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Poland near the Grand Lodge of the State on New York by M.W. Christopher C. Mollenhauer."

Since that time, Kosciuszko Lodge, named after the Revolutionary hero and Polish Patriot, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, has maintained a steady growth and on the occasion of its fifteenth anniversary, arranged a fitting program at which the guest of honor and the



principal speaker was Most Worshipful Charles H. Johnson. The affair brought out the largest gatherings of recent years in the Bronx District and a handsomely printed Historical Brochure was presented to all present.

At the start of 1944 with W. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski, presiding as Master, Kosciuszko Lodge was now well established and on the threshold of Masonic manhood. Spirit and enthusiasm among the members was the signal theme and desire to bring Kosciuszko further into Masonic limelight.

The year 1944 saw Kosciuszko Lodge become the first in the Bronx District to obtain 100% quota in contributions to the Masonic War Chest Fund. The year 1944, will also be remembered as the year in which our gallant American soldiers crashed through the blood-soaked beaches of Normandy, to write the final chapter to one of the most wide spread wars and the costliest in human life.

The Bicentennial observance of the birth of Brigadier General Tadeusz Kosciuszko was celebrated by Kosciuszko Lodge on February 27, 1946. An elaborate program was arranged by W. Henry Archacki – Chairman of Committee and Past Master of Kosciuszko Lodge, with W. James W. Nitecki entertained a number of Military guests at a dinner held prior to the celebration. The dinner was held at the New York Athletic Club, New York City, and among the distinguished guests invited were: R.W. Edward Feih, R.W. Robert B. Wilson, R.W. and Major General Walter DeLamater, Colonel Carl A. Loeb, Colonel Charles E. Greenough, Colonel Perly C. Gray, Colonel Leonard A. Keyes, Capt. R.A. Wahrman and M.W. Charles W. Froessel, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, who also was the principal speaker.

The life of Tadeusz Kosciuszko was depicted in a 16 page brochure, written by W. Henry Archacki and distributed to all attending the ceremonies that evening.

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The annual meeting of December 17, 1948, marked the end of the 20th year for Kosciuszko Lodge. Twenty years of diligent work and dedication to the principles of freemasonry brought Kosciuszko Lodge from its original 13 Charter Members to a total of 78.

At the annual meeting of Masters and Past Masters Association of the Bronx Masonic District, held January, 1948, W. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski was elected President, and Brother Charles J. Sulewski was elected Secretary of the 1948 Wardens association

The second member of the Kosciuszko Lodge to be honored with the purple of the Fraternity was R.W. Walter A. Klass, who was appointed by M.W. Frank M. Totton, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, to be Grand Representative of the Grand Orient of Amazonas and Acre near the Grand Lodge of New York.

With W. Martin S. Ziembinski presiding as Master of the Lodge, Investiture Ceremonies for R.W. Walter A. Klass were held on February 18, 1949 at Guild Hall. R.W. Klass became a member of Henry Clay Lodge No. 277 F. & A.M. on December 3, 1915, affiliated with Kosciuszko Lodge on June 6, 1927 and was elected Master December 15, 1930. The new Grand Representative was presented with the Commission of his Office by R.W. Henry Emmerson, DDGM of the Bronx District. R.W. Edward Feih presented him with the Apron and R.W. Robert B. Wilson presented the Jewel. He was escorted into Lodge Room by W. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski and Past Masters of Kosciuszko Lodge. Prior to the Ceremonies, a dinner was tendered R.W. Walter A. Klass by the Past Masters of Kosciuszko Lodge at the Masonic Club, 71 West 23rd Street, New York.

More honors were bestowed upon Kosciuszko Lodge members when W. Charles J. Sulewski was elected President of the 1950 Masters Associations of the Bronx District and appointed Chairman of the 1951 Bronx Masonic Charity Ball.

We are presented looking for history from 1950 - present.

[http://www.kosciuszkomason.com/index\\_a.html](http://www.kosciuszkomason.com/index_a.html)

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### ***The Early Period***

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### ***Ten Years Later***

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**W.-. Stanley Ozimek**

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#### ***The War Years***

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The life of Tadeusz Kosciuszko was depicted in a 16 page brochure, written by W.. Henry Archacki and distributed to all attending the ceremonies that evening.

#### ***Carrying on***

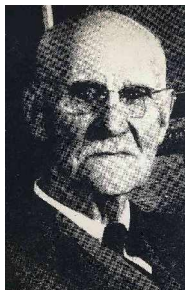
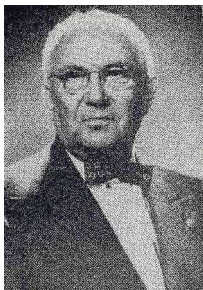
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**R..W.. Walter A. Klass    R..W.. Robert B. Wilson**

More honors were bestowed upon Kosciuszko Lodge members when W.. Charles J. Sulewski was elected President of the 1950 Masters Associations of the Bronx District and appointed Chairman of the 1951 Bronx Masonic Charity Ball.

Heads were bowed in grief, for an old and faithful worker of Kosciuszko Lodge. R..W.. Robert B. Wilson affectionately known as "Bob" passed away in his 84<sup>th</sup> year on February 23, 1951. R..W.. Brother Wilson together with R..W.. Feih worked tirelessly, to help Kosciuszko Lodge obtain its Charter in 1928.

### ***Masonic Church Service***

First Annual Church Service and Breakfast was held by Kosciuszko Lodge on Sunday, November 25, 1951. Many members of the Lodge attended the Service which was held at Polish National Church, Brooklyn, NY, immediately thereafter proceeding to the prospect Hall for breakfast. Speakers at the breakfast were R..W.. Charles R. Mott – District Deputy Grand Master, Bronx District; R..W.. Edward Feih; R..W.. Walter A. Klass and W.. Richard L. Zima, Master of the Lodge. W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski presided at the breakfast.

### ***In Memoriam***

On the afternoon of January 12, 1955, the Bronx Masonic District and particularly Kosciuszko Lodge suffered a grievous and irreparable loss. Suddenly and unexpectedly R..W.. Edward Feih, Past DDGM of the Bronx District and Honorary Member of Kosciuszko Lodge, was called to the Celestial Lodge on High. Thus was brought to a close a life rich in honor and achievement. The members were deeply shocked by the passing of this illustrious and beloved member of our Fraternity, and it was mainly through his efforts that Kosciuszko Lodge became a reality twenty five years ago. For his devotion and work in Masonry, R..W.. Brother Feih was honored by many Masonic bodies. He was elected Honorary Member of Kosciuszko Lodge in 1928.

### ***Honored By Grand Lodge***

On May 27, 1952, Kosciuszko Lodge was honored for the third time with the purple of the Fraternity, when Most Worshipful Ward B. Arbury, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, appointed R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski, District Deputy Grand Master of the Bronx District. Presentation ceremonies were held on September 12, 1952 at the Bronx Masonic Temple. Presiding during the Investiture ceremonies was W.. Martin S. Ziembinski, brother of the District Deputy. Invocation and Benediction was pronounced by the R..W.. P.J. Zaccara, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Commission was presented by R..W.. Charles R. Mott, Past DDGM, the Apron, by R..W.. James F. Reynolds, Past DDGM and Past Senior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of New York; the Jewel by R..W.. John Lecky, Past District Deputy Grand Master.



**R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski**

On September 8, 1952 R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski, placed a wreath at the foot of Kosciuszko's Monument at West Point, New York, commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of General Kosciuszko's appointment as Chief Engineer in charge of fortifications of West Point by General George Washington. Present on that occasion were: R..W.. and Captain Maurice M. Witherspoon, Director of Public Relations, Grand Lodge; R..W.. Walter A. Klass; W.. Charles S. Brykczynski, several members of the West Point personnel and many others.

### ***District Deputy Testimonial Dinner***

Close to 300 brethren of the Bronx District including seventeen District Deputy Grand Masters of the Metropolitan Districts attended a testimonial dinner for R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski on Saturday evening March 25, 1953. Invited guests included M..W.. Ward B. Arbury, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York; R..W.. George E. Richter, Grand Marshal, R..W.. Edward R. Carman, Grand Secretary and many others. W.. Herbert N. Hoeffler was Chairman of the Dinner Committee and W.. Henry R. Davis the toast-master.

### ***Homecoming***

After visiting twenty two Lodges in his official capacity as District Deputy Grand Master of the Bronx District, R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski had his Homecoming Ceremonies in Kosciuszko Lodge on April 17, 1953. The evening's program was highlighted by the unexpected visit of three members of Casimir Pulaski Lodge No. 1167 F. & A. M., Chicago, Illinois. W.. Eugene Syprzak, Master of the Lodge, W.. Walter Cygan, Past Master and W.. Chester Skudlarski, Secretary, presented Kosciuszko Lodge with three beautiful silver gavels appropriately engraved to commemorate Kosciuszko's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. W.. Eugene Syprzak presented the gavels to the Master, W.. Henry Piencinski on behalf of the members of Pulaski Lodge. The District Deputy in his farewell address concluded by saying: "Simple indeed are the words "thank you" in the light of debt that anyone in high office owes to his fellow Craftsmen, and I feel that debt rather keenly. I can never repay this debt, nor can anyone for that matter repay something which is so intangible and so priceless, but what I and all of us, can do is to make yet greater effort to deserve the pride of everyone who of his own free will, made my year and this occasion possible. This evening I would like to dedicate to those in the entire District, who went from preparation in their heart to the greater exhibit in their work. This evening should not be considered a tribute to me only, but rather it is my privilege to share in the tribute to this District of which I had the good fortune of being the District Deputy."



Worshipful Henry Piencinski of Kosciuszko Lodge and  
Worshipful Eugene Syprzak, Master of Casimir Pulaski Lodge No. 1167, AF&AM, Chicago, Illinois. April 20, 1953.

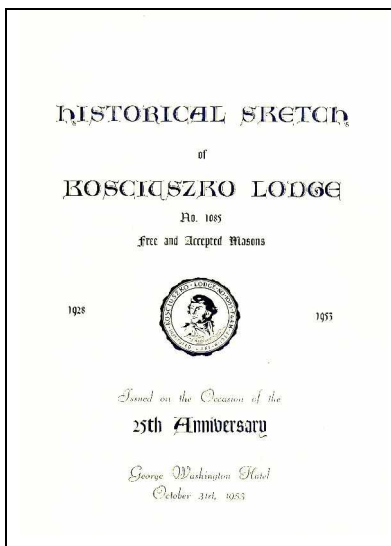
### ***The Twenty Fifth Year***

After a short business meeting, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was appropriately celebrated on June 19, 1953. The program opened with an invocation by W.. Charles J. Sulewski, Past Master of the Lodge, followed by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by the assembled guests. Over 150 guests crowded into Guild Hall to listen to the speeches by W.. Henry Piencinski, Master; W.. Charles S. Brykczynski, Past Master; R..W.. Maurice M. Whitterspoon, Director of Public Relations, Grand Lodge of New York, R..W.. James F. Reynolds, Past District Deputy Grand Master and R..W.. John Lecky, Past District Deputy Grand Master.

R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski, presided and introduced the guests and Past Masters of the Lodge. The musical program was furnished by Mrs. Sophie Piencinski, pianist, and by Mr. Donald Fricke, tenor, accompanied by Mrs. Eleanor Fricke at the piano. At the conclusion of the evening's program the guests were invited to a supper served in the collation room.

The final chapter of Kosciuszko's 25 years of existence was culminated on Saturday, October 31, 1953, when the long awaited dinner-dance was held at the George Washington Hotel, New York, NY. Invited guests at the dinner dance were: the guest of Honor the Most Worshipful Ward B. Arbury, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York; the R..W.. Herbert N. Hoeffler, DDGM-Bronx District and Mrs. Hoeffler; the Right Worshipful George E. Richter, Grand Marshal R..W.. Walter A. Klass; R..W.. John Lecky, Past DDGM and Mrs. Lecky; Brother and Rev. Mervin F. Hill, Chaplain; W.. Henry Piencinski, Master of the Lodge and Mrs. Piencinski; and the Toastmaster, R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski and Mrs. Ziembinski.

The Most Worshipful Ward B. Arbury, Grand Master, as the principal speaker. The guest of Honor delivered a most stirring address about his trip to the European countries and his association with the several Masonic Grand Lodges.



Twenty fifth Anniversary Historical Brochure containing history of Kosciuszko Lodge over the past twenty five years, written by R..W.. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski and a brief history of Polish Freemasonry written by W.. Henry Archacki, was distributed to all present. Silver Anniversary souvenirs were also distributed to all who attended the affair. Six piece Orchestra under the direction of

Mr. Thaddeus Maksymowicz, provided dance music and entertainment during the dinner hours. Thus Kosciuszko Lodge closed its first quarter century chapter, with the fervent hope that Lodge members will continue to work and strive to build Kosciuszko Lodge into a great and stronger segment of our beloved Fraternity.

#### ***New Quarter Century Begins***

The twenty-sixth year of Kosciuszko Lodge began with the meeting held on January 15, 1954. The signal honor to start the second quarter century went to one of the dedicated workers of the Lodge, W.-. Henry A. Haliasz who was elected Master of the Lodge at Annual meeting of December 18, 1953. The Worshipful Master in his initial meeting notice to the Lodge members wrote as follows:

"As newly elected and installed Master of Kosciuszko Lodge, I resolve, with you my Brethren, at this January communication that we may rededicate ourselves on this, the beginning of our 26<sup>th</sup> year. A year which gives us the opportunity to take our bearings and make our observations of the past and thus rekindle the fires of enthusiasm and renew our obligations; that we may radiate hospitality, good fellowship and good will; that we may maintain and promote the efficiency of our Craft and thus recreate an understanding of Freemasonry among ourselves and the world at large; that all men may know that our organization is not bigoted and narrow, but rather, that it is an organization with the finest of purposes, the noblest of ideals and the best of teaching. That harmony may preside and firmly imbed itself in all our doings and thus unify our thoughts of a brotherhood, whereby we will install a genuine exemplification of the spirit of humanity and faith in God and Country. That we may, by our presence at all Communications, support our Officers and Committees in their duties and obligations, both in the Lodge and in the District and thereby enrich our hearts and souls by the goodness we can do and give to others."

For the first time in the history of our Lodge, the Grand Lecturer's Convention was held on February 19, 1954, with R.-.W.-. Howard W. Potts, Grand Lecturer presiding. Brother Stanley W. Weglarski, Senior Warden together with Wardens of the Bronx District portrayed the first section of the Second Degree.

The first annual dinner-dance since the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, was held on Saturday, October 23, 1954, at the George Washington Hotel, New York. The affair was an overwhelming success, mainly due to the efforts of W.-. Martin S. Ziembinski, chairman and W.-. Richard L. Zima, co-chairman. R.-.W.-. Harry Lazarus, District Deputy Grand Master, Bronx District and Mrs. Lazarus were guests of honor.

#### **1955**

At the annual meeting of December 17, 1954, W.-. Stanley W. Weglarski was elected Master of the Lodge.

To reward the Lodge members for their continues and faithful service to Kosciuszko Lodge, it was proposed and adopted by the members, that a Masonic Birthday Certificate be presented to every member of our Lodge on attaining 25<sup>th</sup> Masonic Birthday.

Brothrt John B. Przybylowicz, a member of our Lodge and a member of a number of medical groups in New Jersey, was honored with a testimonial dinner on April 13, 1955, by the Polish University Club of New Jersey. He was presented with an award as the most outstanding Citizen in the State of New Jersey during 1954.

Torrential rain did not dampen the spirit or prevent the forty members and their wives, from attending the annual Kosciuszko Lodge Church Service, which was held October 30, 1955. The service was held at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, followed by a breakfast at the George Washington Hotel. Worshipful Stanley W. Weglarski presided.

#### **1956**

Worshipful Paul Cernak, Master-elect for 1956 had the distinction of serving Kosciuszko Lodge as Master during 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. The first meeting, of which there was any record of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York, was held on January 23, 1781. The year 1956 marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that founding and was celebrated with appropriate ceremonies, Sunday, April 29, 1956.

All Masons, their families and friends, were cordially invited by the Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Raymond C. Ellis, to attend a Service of Thanksgiving in commemoration of the 175 anniversary of our Grand Lodge. The Service was held in the beautiful and spacious Cathedral of St. John the Devine, Amsterdam Avenue and 112<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City.

The annual Kosciuszko Lodge Service was held on November 11, 1956 at the Holy trinity Lutheran Church. Thirty one members and their wives attended the Service. Breakfast was held at the George Washington Hotel. Worshipful Paul W. Cernak presided.

#### **1957**

With Worshipful Edward J. Lubensky, presiding as Master of the Lodge, the annual Church Service was held on October 27, 1957, at the Holy Cross Polish National Church. Close to fifty members and their wives attended the Service and heard an inspiring talk by W.-. Henry E. Haliasz, entitled "one common purpose."

"John Lecky Night" was held by Guiding Star Lodge No. 565 F. & A. M. on November 26, 1957, R.-.W.-. John Lecky, past District Deputy Grand Master, Bronx District, and Honorary member of Kosciuszko Lodge, was honored by one of the largest assembly of Brethren of the Bronx District. A delegation of Kosciuszko Lodge members attended the meeting honoring the Honorary Member and a faithful friend of the Lodge. R.-.W.-. Thaddeus V. Ziembinski, on behalf of Kosciuszko Lodge presented R.-.W.-. Brother John Lecky with a beautiful silver bowl.

#### **1958**

The first meeting of the new year convened on January 17, 1958, with W.-. Walter A. Jankowski presiding as Master of the Lodge. Conferring degrees upon new candidates, was the principal work during the first half of the year.

At the May 16<sup>th</sup> communication, the annual Memorial Service was observed for the members of the Lodge who were called to the Celestial Lodge on High.

The formation of a new Polish Lodge, to be known as Casimir Pulaski Lodge No. 1158 F. & A. M. in Buffalo, New York, was announced by the Worshipful Master Walter A. Jankowski, at the September 19, 1958 meeting. To commemorate the event, a gift from Kosciuszko Lodge consisting of three silver gavels, was presented to the Master of the new Lodge, by our member Brother Francis L. Martin, a resident of the City of Buffalo, N.Y.

Mainly thru the efforts of W.. Martin S. Ziembinski, Honorary Membership was conferred upon R..W.. Frederick J. Starr, member of Guiding Star Lodge No. 556. R..W.. Frederick J. Starr, has been a constant visitor in Kosciuszko Lodge and has on many occasions, participated in the conferral of the degrees. As a token of esteem for R..W.. Brother Starr and for his efforts expended on behalf of Kosciuszko Lodge, the members voted to reward him with Honorary Membership.

### **Kingsbridge Lodge No. 1104, Bronx, New York**

Warrant: ca 1930

Kingsbridge 1104 merged with and became Pelham 712, 7 Jun 1977

### **Tremont Lodge No. 1120, Tremont, New York**

Warrant: ca 1930

Forfeit 1938 for 'gross irregularities'

