

ABOUT ORANGE LODGES.

HOW THE ORDER ORIGINATED AND HOW IT GREW.

Men Who Have Been and Are Prominent in the Councils of the Organization—a List of Grand Masters and Other Officers in this City.

With the exception of the Masonic order the Orange fraternity is the oldest of the secret societies in St. John today, and numerically it is the strongest. This year they completed their seventy-fifth year of history making in the New Brunswick metropolis, and thus have reached their diamond jubilee, and they have made considerable history too, and have participated in some important local events, and have marshalled many thousands under their banners in that time.

It is an interesting fact also, that the first civil lodge started in America was organized in St. John. Joseph Carnahan's history of orangeism is authority for the statement that the first lodge on this continent was established in Montreal, in the year 1827 by William Burton, Arthur Hopper, Francis Abbott and John Dyer. It appears, however, from the records of the Orange Society in this province that the first civil lodge was established in St. John in 1824. There were lodges in connection with the regiments in both the upper provinces before these dates, however.

It is difficult to get at the early records of the inception of the order in the province and a fact here and there is all that can be obtained. The order was introduced into New Brunswick away back in 1822 when a lodge was established in St. John under a warrant brought out from the mother country by the 74th regiment which was stationed here.

The example set by the military soon had its effect for two years later the first civil lodge in St. John was founded, among its promoters being Mr. James McNichol, sr., who died on June 19th, 1886.

The order spread quickly from this start and in 1837 just sixty years ago the first grand lodge of the Loyal Orange Association of New Brunswick met in St. John as an independent Grand Orange Lodge. This continued in operation for some years and in 1844 it was decided to form a grand lodge under the jurisdiction of the grand lodge of British North America.

A special meeting of the masters of the orange lodge in this province was held at the lodge room of the association in this city on Monday August 5th, 1844, having been called by the Grand Master for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge in New Brunswick under warrant received from O. R. Gowan, Esq., the Right Worshipful Grand Master of British North America. At this meeting the following grand officers were duly elected.

Wm. H. Needham Grand Master. Robert Thomson and Robert Pickett—Deputy Grand Masters. James Sullivan—President of the Grand Committee. Stephen Daly—Grand Chaplain. Robert Hannah—Grand Treasurer. B. B. Kinneer—Grand Secretary. Charles McL. Gardner—Deputy Grand Chaplain. Richard Seely—Deputy Grand Secretary. Chapter—James McNichol, John Willis, Robert Shives, Thomas W. Peters, Charles M. Gardner Andrew Gilmour.

Members of the Grand Committee—John W. Cudlip, Samuel Corbett, Andrew C. Oty, William Reed, George Christie, William Jenkins, William Black, Joseph L. Mullin, Elias Wetmore, Thomas Hill, Squire Manks, John Hall.

The grand lodge has pursued since then an uninterrupted and prosperous existence and the writer who had an opportunity to glance through the complete files of the annual publications of the grand lodge through a period of half a century was able to appreciate the great amount of work that had been done in spreading orangeism through the province. From the handful of lodges that existed then the number has increased to about a hundred and the extent of the membership may be gauged when it is known that there are about 1500 active members in this city beside a large number who are non-resident or not in the enjoyment of the full privileges of the order.

The St. John lodges number nine and are as follows: Verner, No. 1; Eldon, No. 2; York, No. 3; Gideon, No. 7, (West Side); True Blue, No. 11, (West Side); Johnson, No. 24; Havelock, No. 27; Willis, No. 70. Fairville; Dominion, No. 141.

The following have been the grand masters and grand secretaries of the grand lodge of the province since its organization

- 1850. George Anderson. 1861. S. H. Gilbert. 1864. James McNichol, sr. 1865. J. H. Jacques. 1866. James McNichol, sr. 1867. Rev. Chas. Parker Bliss, Sussex. 1868. George H. Pick, St. John. 1872. John Pickett, Fredericton. 1875. Hon. John A. Beckwith, M. L. C. 1876. Hon. Edward Willis, M. P. P., M. E. C. 1879. Wm. Wilson, Fredericton. 1883. David F. Merritt, Woodstock. 1884. T. A. Kinneer, Sackville. 1887. Major Andrew J. Armstrong. 1891. George W. Fowler, Sussex. 1894. James Kelly. 1896. Herman H. Pitts, M. P. P.

- GRAND SECRETARIES. 1844. R. B. Kinneer. 1845. John Brown. 1849. Charles Ketchum. 1849. Joseph L. Mullin. 1850. R. C. Minnette, jr. 1852. W. C. Goddard. 1853. G. F. Rouse. 1857. John McCausland. 1859. George Simpson. 1860. Robert Baxter. 1863. Edward Simpson. 1865. Robert Baxter. 1866. John Earle. 1868. C. E. Godard. 1872. J. E. N. Holder. 1875. Capt. A. G. Bisklee. 1879. T. A. Kinneer, Shediac. 1883. Capt. A. J. Armstrong, St. John. 1887. Samuel T. Mosher, Carleton. 189. George R. Vincent. 1892. Rev. T. F. Fullerton, St. John. 1893. W. H. Barton, St. John. 1894. Major A. J. Armstrong. 1894. J. deVeber Neales, Moncton. 1895. J. M. McIntyre, Sussex. 1896. Dr. E. O. Steeves, Moncton. 1897. John Farley, Woodstock.

The year 1847, just half a century ago, was an important year in the history of the order for under the grand mastership of Mr. George Bond the number of lodges was increased from 40 to 68. A lodge room was also erected in Portland in that year and negotiations were in progress to erect a large Orange hall through the medium of the organization of a joint stock company.

In 1849 occurred the memorable York Point riot when the Orangemen were holding their 12th of July procession and the annual parades were discontinued until the time of the regims of Grand Master Edward Willis, 1876-9, when they were resumed without any hostile demonstration and have been held ever since in some city or town of the province.

In 1867 there were eight lodges in St. John as follows: No. 1, St. John, George McKilligan, W. M. " 2, Do George H. Pick, W. M. " 3, Do John Roberts, W. M. " 7, Do A. G. Bisklee, W. M. " 11 Carleton. " 13 St. John, Theon Wesley, W. M. " 21 Portland, John Myles, W. M. Defence Lodge, military.

In that year there were 150 lodges all told in the province, 184 of which were working lodges.

In 1869 Cameron Lodge was established in East Boston under warrant from the grand lodge of New Brunswick.

On Dec. 31st, 1872, there were 10 lodges in St. John county with the following membership, five of them being in this city:

Table with 2 columns: No. and Membership. Lists lodges like Verner (60), Eldon (37), York (42), Victoria (16), Enniskillen (22), Wilmet (27), Wellington (45), Havelock (37), Mount Purple (30), Dominion (23).

In 1879 the grand lodge of British North America met in St. John for the first time and they met here again in 1890. In the latter year one of the biggest demonstrations ever held here was the Orangeman's bi-centennial of the Battle of the Boyne. On July 12th, 1890, there was a grand procession in which fully 2000 orangemen participated followed by speeches by prominent leaders of the order.

One of the chief features of the effort and industry of the fraternity's workers is the splendid Orange hall on Germain street. The order is pretty well equipped with halls and in 1892 they had \$23,000 invested in halls throughout the province. In that year it was decided to build a home of Orangeism in the city and the following year Grand Master Fowler laid the cornerstone of the splendid building in which the members of the order take much pride.

On Nov 5 1894 the hall was dedicated by Grand Master James Kelly, and at the banquet which followed the Hon. N. Clarke Wallace, the honored president of the triennial council, the sovereign body of the order throughout the world, was present. There are now in this county seven Orange halls and the Carleton brethren contemplate erecting another. These are as follows with their values:

Table with 2 columns: Lodge Name and Value. Lists District Lodge, Harmony, Mount Purple, Guardian, Willis, Victoria, Dominion with values from \$10,000 to \$500.

Several of the New Brunswick Orangemen have occupied high positions, in the

arch-councils of the order. Major A. J. Armstrong is deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of British America. Mr. James Kelly was grand lecturer of the Grand Lodge of B. A. for 5 or 7 years and Mr. R. A. C. Brown is the present grand lecturer.

Major Armstrong was vice president of the Triennial council, or Imperial Grand Orange Council of the world, from 1891 to 1893 and Mr. James Kelly from 1894 to 1897. Mr. Herman H. Pitts, M. P. P., of Fredericton, is secretary of the Triennial Council.

In this connection a few remarks in regard to the original birth of the order would not be amiss. It arose after the Battle of the Diamond which occurred at a village called Diamond, two miles from Loughall, parish of Kilmore, county of Armagh, Ireland. The order was founded at the house of John Sloan on the evening of Sept. 21st, 1795, the day of the memorable conflict, the organizers being exclusively Church of England men. Previous to this there were other similar societies but this was the real foundation of the Orange organization with its present aims and objects. The first grand lodge of the county of Armagh was organized at Portadown on July 12th, 1796, Thos. Verner presiding. The first grand lodge of Ireland was formed on March 8, 1798. The order spread into England and Scotland and the first lodge in the colonies appears to have been the one established in St. John in 1824. The first lodge in the United States, Cameron lodge, Boston, was a son of the New Brunswick order, as previously stated.

A Deer-Hunt in Town. An exciting scene took place in Thorpe, Wis., recently. A. O. Rhea noticed about noon a splendid large deer in his pasture, near the high school. He went to his house, procured his gun, and sent a charge of shot into the buck. The deer jumped the fence and ran into the main street. It had been so long since a deer has been seen roaming about the town that the people were so taken by surprise that they forgot all about guns and stood gazing at the splendid animal as it ran and turned north at Forest Queen house corner, crossed the railroad track into a mill-yard, where Charles Case happened to be practising at a mark with a rifle. At the third shot Mr. Case succeeded in hitting the deer and killing it. It weighed when dressed 225 pounds.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Offended Chivalry. A tramp accosted a McPherson woman, who was shovelling snow off her sidewalk the other day, for something to eat. 'Shovel this snow off,' she said, 'and I'll give you a dinner.' He drew himself up to his full height and replied: 'Madam, do you think for a moment that I am so dead to the instincts of a gentleman as to enter into competition with a woman? Perish the thought.'

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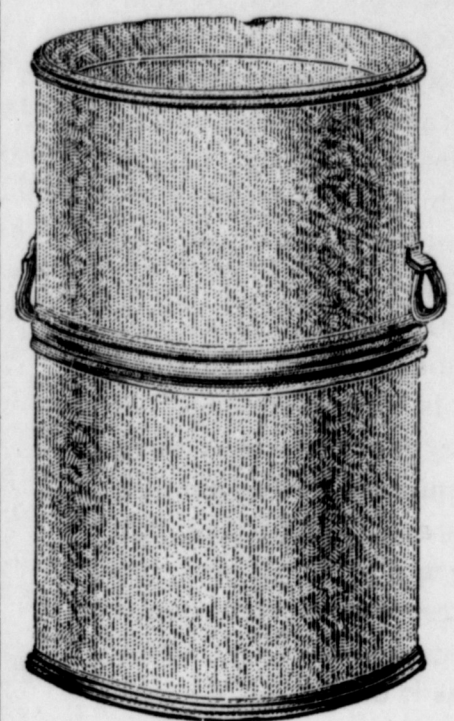
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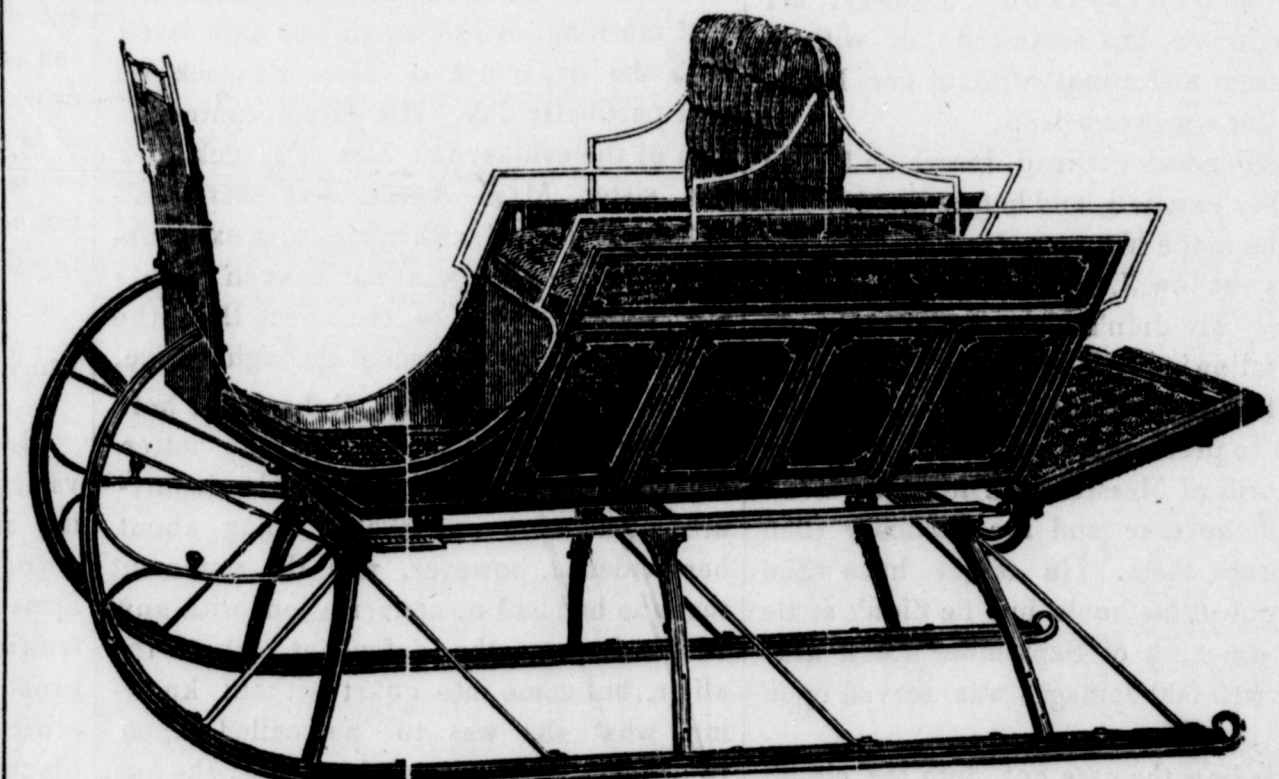
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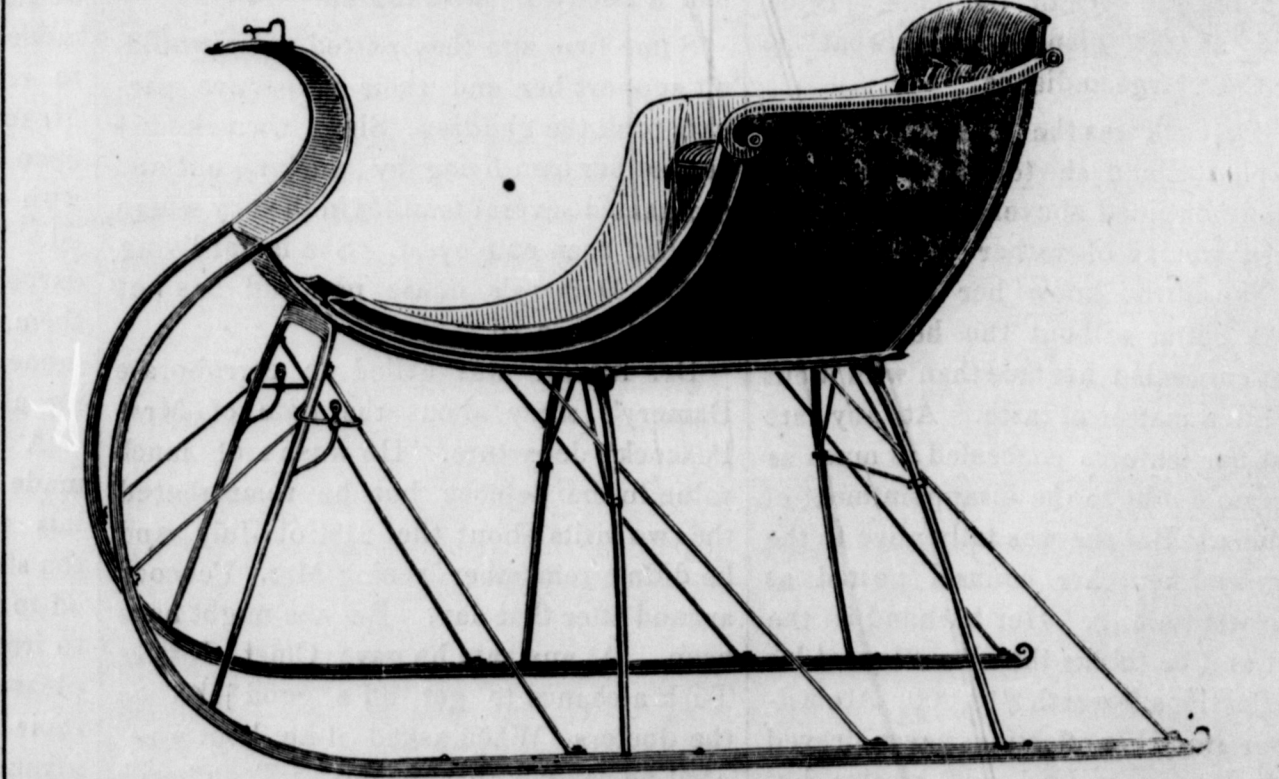
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