

# KNIGHTS PYTHIAS CELEBRATING 74TH ANNIVERSARY

Order Was Founded In  
1864 at Washington  
and Has Since Spread  
Throughout the Con-  
tinent

(By E. G. Merritt)

Away back in 1864 a few men met in an old Temperance Hall in the month of February, a cold, raw, windy day, and under the direction of Justus Henry Rathbone the first lodge of the Knights of Pythias was instituted at Washington, D.C., U.S.A. There were no stoves in the building and the weather was extremely cold, when the few men had assembled Mr. Rathbone ordered the door locked and in a most impressive speech told those present that he intended to form a new society having for its object friendship, benevolence and charity. Joseph Plant was asked to act as chairman while D. L. Burnett was elected secretary. After the oath had been read by Brother Rathbone and administered to those present, it was decided to call the order the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Rathbone then presented a ritual for opening and closing which had been prepared by him some weeks before. The ritual was accepted.

Then came the election of officers which resulted as follows: Justus Rathbone, Worthy Chancellor; Joel R. Woodruff, Vice-Chancellor; Joseph T. K. Plant, Venerable, Patriarch; Abraham Deyan Van Derveer, Worthy Banker; Robert A. Champion, Worthy Assistant Banker; George R. Covert, Worthy Scribe; Matthew Henry Van Derveer, Worthy Guide; Aristide Roderique, Inside Stewart. After singing the closing ode, the meeting adjourned to meet the following week.

That was the first meeting of the Knights of Pythias with just enough members present to fill the offices while today 74 years later, the order has extended across the North American Continent and has now nearly three quarters of a million members. It is said that the night when the order was formed the room was so cold that the men were compelled to keep their overcoats on, but they got so enthusiastic over the result of the meeting they warmed up to the occasion and carried on as if the room had been heated.

The next meeting of the lodge, which was named Washington Lodge No. 1, District of Columbia, was held on Tuesday evening, February 23rd, 1864, when several names were submitted for membership, from that small beginning to the present day the order of the Knights of Pythias has gone ahead in leaps and bounds, and today lodges have been established in every State in the Union and all the provinces of Canada. The first lodge instituted in the State of Maine was at Biddeford on March 16th, 1871, known as Mavoshen Lodge No. 1. Some years later Calais Lodge No. 45 was formed and the 21st Grand Chancellor of the State of Maine was the late George M. Hanson who held the office during the years 1892-93. Judge Hanson was a leading State of Maine lawyer. He was born in Charlotte County, N. B., August 28, 1856, but moved to Calais with his parents when only two years old. He was educated in the public schools of Calais and studied law being admitted to the bar in 1877, was collector of Customs from 1895 until 1899 for the historic district of Passamaquoddy, joined Calais Lodge January 29th, 1884, elected Supreme representative in 1887 and re-elected in 1901. Although Brother Hanson has long since passed to the great Beyond, his memory as a Knight of Pythias are ever kept fresh and his photo has an honored place on the walls of Castle Hall in St. Stephen, where he was highly respected.

The order of the Knights of Pythias was introduced into the province of New Brunswick by John Beamish of Saint John, when New Brunswick Lodge No. 1 was instituted October 28, 1870, it being the first in British North America and today nearly 68 years later is going strong. The Lodge started with twenty-six members with the following officers: W. J. McCordick, Venerable Patriarch; Thos. Walker, Chancellor Commander; Andrew J. Stewart, Vice-Chancellor; David H. Waterbury, Scribe; James Moulston, Financial Secretary; Jas. Thompson, Banker; Frederick Sandall, Guard; David A. Sinclair, Inner Steward; Samuel Armstrong, Outer Steward.

On March 24, 1874, Union Lodge No. 2 was instituted at Saint John by the late Dr. Thomas Walker of New Brunswick Lodge who was deputy Supreme Chancellor for the Maritime Domain. The first officers of Union Lodge were: Alexander McNichol, Past Chancellor; George Stewart, Jr., Chancellor Commander; Andrew J. Armstrong, Vice-Chancellor; John R. Armstrong, Prelate; J. Morris Robinson, Master of Exchequer; A. L. Rawlins, Master of Finance; Andrew McNichol, Keeper of Records and Seal; William King, Master at Arms; James Boyd, Inner Guard; Robert Clerk, Outer Guard.

We are told that during the first three years the Lodge met with fair

# The Travels of A Frederickton Editor A Century Ago

Mr. Gorham Continues His Story of the Travels  
Of Edmund Ward In 1839

R. P. Gorham, B.Sc., continues in this issue his interesting sketch of the travels of Edmund Ward in 1837 and 1838.

R. P. Gorham, B.Sc., of this city, who is one of the leading authorities on matters of local as well as of Maritime history is furnishing The Daily Mail with a series of historical sketches dealing with past events in this locality. The sketch which we publish today contains an account of the travels a century ago of the Editor of a Fredericton newspaper. Historic Roads in Westmorland and the geological formation of the Hillsborough region is described.

(Part Seven)

In the last installment of Mr. Ward's story of his travels in 1839 he commented on the features which made it desirable to divide Westmorland County. The Petitcodiac River cut the county in two parts and in winter made a journey of eighty miles necessary for the traveller who would go from Hillsborough to Dorchester, the shiretown, five miles distant. Continuing his comments Mr. Ward stated:

A Separate County

"Were a separate county therefore set off, embracing that part between the Petitcodiac and the St. John County line it would comprise a large and populous county. The expense which would attend such a measure is certainly no objection; and, if it were, we are convinced the inhabitants themselves would defray it. The fear of giving the St. John members greater ascendancy in the House of Assembly than they at present possess, (the members of the counties in that direction generally voting together) may have retarded the measure; but legislation should not be conducted on such principles; the general good of the whole should be the sole object kept in view. There is, however, a feeling of jealousy extending itself, which will prevent such a result. The people on the Petitcodiac consider that an undue prejudice has been created in England by the merchants of St. John with reference to the safe navigation of that river, for the purpose of concentrating the deal trade in that city; in consequence of which insurance is effected with difficulty and vessels cannot be chartered to load there. While these feelings of rivalry prevail there is no danger of the representatives of the two counties uniting their efforts for one common object; and we believe they will not do so, under any circumstance, in a manner prejudicial to the province.

"Having visited the settlements of Harvey and Hopewell, abounding with some of the finest marsh land in the province, we crossed over to Hillsborough early on Sunday morning, being prevented from doing so on the preceding afternoon owing to a bridge being taken up for repairs. The road we took led across the mountain and divine worship had commenced before our arrival. The place of worship here belongs to the Baptist denomination and is a two story meeting house, well finished, of large dimensions, and at which an immense congregation assembled at stated times.

"The clergyman that officiates is Rev. Mr. Sears; and who most readily acquiesced in a proposal that we should address his numerous hearers on the subject of temperance in the afternoon. Intemperance of late has become a growing evil threatening to destroy the prosperity and comfort of the population there. The Society, as in most other places had become inert and the enemy had been enabled to make fresh advances. The result of the days exercises were that

it was determined to make other efforts in the cause of temperance; the society are about renewing its meetings and the members we trust will renovate their zeal."

Mr. Ward was given to using odd expressions, some of them very apt to the subject. The advice to the

members of the temperance society at Hillsborough to "renovate their zeal" we believe, should apply to some organizations of our own time.

I wonder who will write an interesting paper on the formation of Albert County. The preceding paragraphs of Mr. Ward's notes outline some of the factors associated with the act of division and that there was some opposition, in parts of Westmorland, to such a division taking place. Hannay did not mention it in his history, the mere formation of a new county was unimportant. Unless one looks up the old statutes and the newspapers of the period it would appear that Albert county just happened to be on the map.

"When the people have so fine and productive a country it is amazing that they should not be contented with the healthful and profitable pursuits of agriculture; but we regret to state that the lumbering mania there

also prevails, and there are numerous sawmills erected for the purpose of converting logs into deal and at the same time rendering those who engage in the pursuit, involved in their circumstances, who might otherwise do well.

"We observe in the last Courier something like congratulations at the number of vessels which weekly arrive from the outports with deals. But when it is considered that this trade is destroying the agricultural energies and retarding the advancement of those parts of the province whose inhabitants engage in it to any extent; and that however it may benefit a few individuals in the city, there is a corresponding loss to the province; it needs little of argument to convince the candid and unprejudiced mind that the sooner it is abandoned the better for those who might and should be engaged in rural occupations.

"We took boat and pursued our way up the river as far as The Bend, a distance of twenty-five miles from the ferry. Ship-building it appears is carried on there, to a certain extent, as there was a fine new barque belonging to Mr. Wright, waiting to take in a cargo, and the keel of another vessel is now on the stocks.

"The soil about the Bend of the Petitcodiac partakes of the same fertile character as in other parts of the county of Westmorland, and abundance of marsh mud at other places affords a never failing supply of excellent manure. We recently noticed, in a Halifax paper, a cargo of Demarara mud offered for sale, and that of the county of Westmorland might, perhaps with equal advantage be shipped to different parts of the province."

Many columns of text have been written about the shipbuilding activities at Bay of Fundy Ports and along

the St. John River in early days but we do not recall reading very much about the same type of activities on the Petitcodiac. We have heard stories of vessels built as far up the river as the head of tide near Salisbury. We hope the new historical society in Moncton will help in preserving the records of these old time activities.

"At the Bend the river becomes contracted and the tide comes up in very handsome style, forming a 'bore' about two miles below, at some season of the year nearly five feet in perpendicular height; it is well worth seeing and the roaring may be heard at a considerable distance. While at the Bend we met with Dr. Deane, who with his son was there for a few hours. The Doctor is at present engaged in examining the geological structure of that part of the province and analyzing the soils, a most

(Continued on Page Seven)

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