

## HISTORY OF WAYNE LODGE NO. 25

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History of Wayne Lodge, No.  
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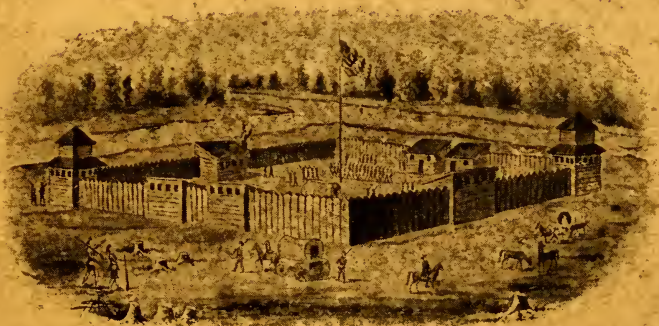
Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Clubs & Societies  
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# History

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Wayne Lodge No. 25

H. & A. M.



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# History of Wayne Lodge No. 25

H. & A. M.

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Together with

By-Laws and Roster of Membership to  
September 1, 1911



# HISTORY OF WAYNE LODGE NO. 25 F. AND A. M.

AN ADDRESS ON THE MASONIC HISTORY OF FORT WAYNE  
DELIVERED AT THE 88TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET OF  
WAYNE LODGE NO. 25, ON MARCH 30, 1911.

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BY BROTHER ALBERT E. THOMAS, SENIOR WARDEN

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To-night we have met to celebrate the 88th anniversary of the founding of Wayne Lodge No. 25, the oldest Masonic body in northern Indiana. The history of Wayne Lodge is necessarily the history of Masonry in this part of the state, and, in fact, practically the history of Fort Wayne itself, as its early membership comprised the men whose names are inseparably linked with the history and development of northeastern Indiana. In 1823, when the dispensation was granted to a small handful of Masons, who were authorized to meet and transact business under the name of Wayne Lodge, there was but a little cluster of cabins then constituting the village known as Fort Wayne, and all gathered closely about and within the protection of the fort, which had lately been abandoned by the soldiers. At that date, it is said, that there was not a white man's house between here and the Michigan line, and none between Fort Wayne and Chicago, which itself was but a fort and Indian trading post and of no more importance than Fort Wayne. The dispensation of Wayne Lodge dated March 22, 1823, and signed by John Sheets, G. M., and Wm. C. Keene, Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, antedates the formation of Allen County, as will be seen from the following language quoted from the dispensation:

“Whereas it has been represented to me that at the town of Fort Wayne, in the County of Randolph and State of Indiana, there reside a number of free and accepted Ancient York Masons, who are desirous of associating together • • •”

“Therefore, I, John Sheets, G. M. etc., do hereby constitute and appoint the worshipful, Alexander Ewing, Master, John P. Hedges, S. W., Benj. Cushman, J. W., together with all such brethren as are now or may hereafter become members, a regular Lodge of free and accepted Ancient York Masons, by dispensation, by the title of Wayne Lodge, and do hereby ordain that the regular Lodges respect them as such; hereby granting them full power to assemble and work together as a regular Lodge, to receive and enter apprentices, pass fellowcrafts and raise masters according to the known and established custom of Ancient Masonry and not otherwise.”

This dispensation was received by the officers mentioned therein, and the record of the first meeting shows that there were also present James Hackley and B. B. Kerehival, resident members, and John Tipton, A. L. Davis, R. L. Britton, John McCorkle and Robt. A. Forseyth, visitors.

Work continued under this dispensation until the 10th day of October of the same year, when a charter was granted and John Tipton was authorized to constitute and form Wayne Lodge No. 25, which language in the body of the charter is the first appearance of this name and number together, but which has ever since remained the title of the Lodge which to-day exists under that name. The charter is dated at Madison, Indiana, and bears the signatures of the following grand officers: John Sheets, Grand Master; Jonathan Jennings, D. G. M.; Thomas Posey, S. G. W.; John H. Farnham, J. G. W.; William C. Keene, G. S. On November 17th the Lodge was duly instituted under the charter and the officers installed were Alexander Ewing, W. M.; John Tipton, S. W.; B. B. Kirchival, J. W.; Chas. W. Ewing,

Secy.; A. L. Davis, Treas.; James Hackley and H. B. McKean, Sr. and Jr. Deacons, and James Wyman, Steward and Tiler. The first election of officers was held December 25, 1823, and John Tipton was elected W. M., which position he continued to hold, through successive elections for five years, and was, in fact, as shown by the records of the Lodge of those days, the active, as well as the nominal head of the organization.

Tipton was known as Gen. John Tipton from services rendered in the Indian wars; was eventually a U. S. senator from Indiana, and a grand master of Masons, and for many years was in charge of the government land office in Fort Wayne. Alexander Ewing was a revolutionary officer and a keeper of the tavern on the southwest corner of what are now Barr and Columbia streets, and the progenitor of the family of that name, which to the present time, are extensive land owners in this city and vicinity. John P. Hedges had been an employe of the Commissioners Department while the fort was garrisoned, and Benj. Cushman was shortly after elected one of the first associate judges of the Circuit Court. John McCorkle, among those who attended the first meeting, was one of the owners of the town plat of Fort Wayne, and Robt. A. Forscyth was a paymaster in the U. S. army. From this it will be seen of what sturdy characters the early membership of Wayne Lodge was composed, and in this connection, I want to name others who were prominent in the first ten years of the history of the Lodge, as found in its minutes book, and whose names and high character are known by everybody who has any knowledge of the early history of Allen County. Among these are Hugh Hanna, Wm. N. Hood, Cyrus Taber, Joseph Holman, Stephen Coles, Samuel Hanna, Wm. Rockhill, Henry Rudisil, Allen Hamilton, Francis Comparet, Samuel Edsell, and many others.

There seems to have been a fairly continuous existence of the Lodge from the time of its institution until the month of May, 1832, when there was no meeting until the 20th of February, 1833, a period of about eight

months. At the meeting in February, we find the following resolution recorded in the minutes book:

“Resolved that whereas, owing to the great excitement prevailing in this section of the country and elsewhere against the Masonic institutions and Masonry in general, this Lodge has not held her regular meetings for seven or eight months past, therefore,

“Resolved, by unanimous consent that the proceedings of this meeting shall be as valid and have the same effect as if the same had been done and transacted at the regular meetings of the Lodge, and that the by-laws, rules and regulations in any way contravening any of the proceedings of this meeting is hereby suspended.”

They then proceeded with the installation of the officers, who were elected on the 4th day of June preceding, and the meeting closed to meet on the first Monday in June next. The minutes are signed by Henry Rudisil, W. M. No regular officers seem to have been present, as the record shows that they were all acting pro tem. The next meeting recorded was on June 3, 1833, and from this until 1856 there seems to have been no regular meetings, although on March 3, 1840, there is a record of a meeting pursuant to public notice, when it is recited, “The regular Masons of Fort Wayne and vicinity met to take into consideration the propriety of organizing to work as a regular Lodge—whereupon, Bro. H. Rudisil presided as W. M. The minutes of the meeting are signed by Chas. E. Sturgis, Secy.

On June 10, 1823, the new Lodge met under dispensation and adopted by-laws, some of which may be interesting.

The first article fixed the Monday preceding each full of the moon as the regular meeting night, and such other times as the W. M. may think proper.

Article 2 provided extra meetings may be called at the request of any brother, he paying the expense of the same.

Article 3 fixed the following fees: For initiation \$8.00; for passing to the Degree of Fellow Craft, \$4.00;



and for raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason, \$3.00; and for admitting a member from any foreign Lodge, \$2.00, which fees shall severally be paid in advance.

Article 5 provided fines for non-attendance as follows: W. M., the S. W. and J. W., the Secy. and Treas., 25 cents each—the S. D. and J. D., 12½ cents each—steward and tiler, 25 cents each, and each member, 12½ cents each.

Article 7 provides as follows: Any brother coming into the Lodge intoxicated shall, for the first offense, receive a reprimand from the W. M. —for the second he shall be suspended, and for the third offense of the same kind, and for any non-masonic conduct, he shall be expelled if the Lodge thinks proper.

Article 8 provided that all balloting shall be confined to a Master Masons Lodge and in case the votes be equally divided then the W. M. shall have two votes, and in all other cases but one.

Article 11 authorizes the W. M. to draw on the treasury for any sum not exceeding \$2.00 for charitable purposes.

Article 13 provided that the monthly dues should be 25 cents and that visiting brothers should be exempt the first attendance.

On August 18, 1823 W. M. appointed James Hackley, B. B. Kerchival and C. W. Ewing a committee to procure books, furniture, etc., and report to the next meeting. At the next meeting held September 15, 1823, the committee reported that they had procured one table and a blank book bound in parchment for a record book and had engaged the making of the balance of the furniture and ask further time until the next meeting to conclude their report. This book, bound in parchment, constituted the first record book of the Lodge and is still in existence, and is the authority from which we gleaned most of the information we have been able to secure for this history.

At the meeting of September 18, 1823, Wm. H. Lilly was appointed as the first representative to the Grand Lodge, and the same night John Tipton was admitted on demit from Pisga Lodge No. 5, Corydon, Indiana. On September 6, 1824, John Tipton was elected as the second representative to the Grand Lodge.

As might be supposed, increase in membership in the new organization was not rapid, and the first petition was received on April 12, 1824, more than a year after the institution of the Lodge under the dispensation, and curiously enough, this petition was rejected on June 7, 1824, on the report of the committee.

The first member to be initiated was Lambert Cushovis, who received the First Degree on August 16, 1824.

Among other doings of the Lodge, which hold interesting place because of having been the first transaction of their several kinds in the history of Masonry in Northern Indiana, are the following:

The first financial report was made by a committee on December 13, 1824, and covers the financial condition of the Lodge up to October 13th of that year, and is as follows:

We the committee appointed upon the state of the Lodge funds, after due examination, make the following report, towit:

We find in the Secretary's hands .....	\$ 3.31¼
We find in the Treasurer's hands .....	6.35
We find in arrears due from members .....	7.50

Total .....	17.16¼
Lodge debtor to James Wyman, .....	6.75

Leaving a credit in favor of the Lodge

at this date, October 13, 1824 ..... \$10.41¼

A. EWING,  
R. N. HAISE.

On June 24, 1825, the Lodge held its first celebration of St. John's Day, and the minutes of that date recite:



“The Lodge was called from labor to refreshment for the space of three hours, when a procession was formed and marched to the church where an oration was delivered by John Tipton, W. M.; from thence they marched to the house of Bro. James Wyman and partook of a dinner which was prepared for the occasion, and from thence to the Lodge room to resume their labors and conclude the business of the evening.”

This seems to have been a master stroke on the part of the Lodge, for at the next meeting, held on July 4, 1825, they acted upon six petitions, and on motion it was resolved that the committee of arrangements for the anniversary of St. John's Day, the 24th of June last, call on the orator of that day for a copy of the oration and cause it to be published.

This would seem to imply that the community enjoyed newspapers in those days somewhat as they do now, but there probably was no newspaper nearer than Indianapolis at that time, for we find on a similar occasion on June 27, 1826, when Bro. Tipton delivered another oration, that the resolution was “That a committee be appointed to wait on Bro. John Tipton and procure a copy of the oration delivered by him on the 24th of June inst., that the same be published in the *Indiana Journal* a newspaper printed at Indianapolis.

While referring to this latter celebration of St. John's Day, when the Lodge was three years old, it might be interesting to the members to know that Masters of those days were not unmindful of the inner man any more than are the brothers of today, while engaged in their larger work of endeavoring to uplift the moral tone of the community, and in the minutes of June 9, 1826, we find this recorded: “That the committee of arrangements be instructed to inquire of the tavern keepers what a dinner can be furnished at, for 20 to 40 persons with domestic liquors.” And at the next meeting, which by the way, was on the next night, June 10, unlike most committees, in that short time the committee was fully able to report, and the minutes read:

“The committee of arrangements reported sundry proposals to furnish the dinner at the ensuing anniversary of St. John’s Day. On motion resolved that the Lodge close with the proposal of Bro. Alexander Ewing to furnish the dinner for \$1.00 each.”

While referring to these St. John’s Day celebrations, it might be appropriate at this time to call attention to the first invitation, shown by the records to have been extended to neighboring Lodges. The minutes of June 2, 1828, when our Lodge was five years old, show the following:

“On motion resolved that there be a committee of three appointed to invite the brethren of the Wabash to partake with the brethren of this Lodge on the festival of St. John’s Day on the 24th inst. \* \* \* Whereupon Bros. L. G. Thompson, Hugh Hanna and Wm. Rockhill were appointed as such committee.”

The first Masonic burial in Fort Wayne was that of Capt. James Hackley, which occurred on May 26, 1826, when the brethren were confronted with the proposition of whether they might, with propriety, extend the honors of a Masonic burial to their deceased brother, who had committed suicide. From the minutes of that date we note:

“The Lodge was then opened in the Third Degree of Masonry, at which time the W. M. informed the Lodge that the purpose of the meeting was to take into consideration the propriety of giving Bro. James Hackley, who had committed suicide, the burial of a Mason. The Lodge adjourned for the space of one hour. Upon convening again, on motion it was resolved that the visiting brethren present be requested to discuss and be permitted to vote as members on any subject that may come before the Lodge relative to the occasion of the present meeting. The following resolution was then offered and adopted by the Lodge: Resolved that the Lodge truly deprecates the untimely end of Bro. James Hackley, and disapproves of his last act, but for the gratification of Mrs. Hackley and at her special request, the Lodge

came to the resolution to inter the remains of the late Bro. Hackley with Masonic honors at 6 o'clock in the evening, and that the decision of the Lodge be made public at the place of burial. At which time the Lodge formed a procession and marched to the place of burial and interred the remains of the deceased brother with the usual ceremony, and marched from thence to the Lodge room."

The first public installation of officers occurred on December 27, 1825, and was held at the home of Hugh Hanna. The minutes of the meeting of December 10th contain the following resolution on the subject:

"On motion, Resolved that the Masons meet in the Lodge room on Tuesday, the 27th inst., at 12 o'clock, and walk in procession to the house of Bro. H. Hanna, and after the delivery of the oration we have a public installation of officers for the ensuing six months."

Then in the minutes of the meeting under date of December 27th, we find:

"The Lodge was called from labor to refreshment for the space of two hours, when a procession was formed and marched to the house of Bro. Hugh Hanna, when an oration was delivered by Bro. Chas. W. Ewing, and a public installation of officers for the ensuing six months, and from thence to the Lodge room and resumed their labors and concluded the business of the evening."

A committee of two was appointed to wait on Bro. Chas. W. Ewing to return the thanks of the Lodge and request of him a copy of the oration delivered by him on that occasion for publication.

While the minutes of the meetings of these first ten years of the existence of Wayne Lodge are filled with interesting evidence of the strong character of the members and the high moral tone of the membership, among which are investigations of alleged immoral character, trials of brothers for unmasonic conduct, in which the evidence heard is set out as completely as in a court record, and one cannot read the same without being filled with respect for the earnest high-minded character of the

members—yet perhaps the most interesting fact disclosed by the record is the earnest struggle made by the Lodge almost from the organization, to provide itself with a Lodge home. The first mention of this subject is found in the minutes of July 9, 1825, which is as follows:

“Bros. Joseph Holman, John Winchell, H. Todd, A. L. Davis and C. W. Ewing were appointed a committee to inquire and report Monday evening as to the propriety and means of erecting a Lodge home.”

Two days afterward, on July 11th, we find the following report:

“Bro. Chas W. Ewing, from the committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of building a Lodge room, asked leave to report that from the present state of the Lodge funds, said committee deem it inexpedient at this time to attempt to build a Lodge room. On motion and second, the Lodge concurred in said report.” This did not discourage our brethren, however, for six months later, on January 2, 1826, the subject is again revived, and we find the following entry in the minutes:

“On motion, Resolved that a committee be appointed to inquire into the propriety of building a Masonic Hall, and that they report at our regular communication in March next, which committee consisted of Bros. Holman, Hanna and Carter.” On January 6th it was reported that the actual worth of the Lodge was \$104.16, and on February 5th, we find this entry:

“The committee to whom was referred the expediency or inexpediency of building a Lodge room, asked leave and reported, which report was laid on the table.”

“A motion was made and seconded for the Lodge to close with the proposal of Judge Archer for the building of a Lodge room, which motion was rejected by the Lodge,” and the further consideration of the report was postponed until the next regular meeting. At the same meeting, on motion it was “resolved that there should be a committee appointed, consisting of five members to procure a lot for the Lodge, which committee consisted of Bros. Benj. B. Kerchival, Joseph Holman, H.



Hanna, Chauncy Carter and A. L. Davis, and to report at our next regular meeting." On April 3, 1826, the minutes show that "Bro. Anthony L. Davis, of the committee, to whom was referred the subject of procuring a lot for the Lodge, reported that they had examined the town plat, and inquired of the proprietors on the subject of donating a lot to the Lodge, and Mr. McCorckle's answer of the proprietors submitted, and asked leave for further time to report until the next regular meeting, and leave was given." A resolution was then passed that the report of the committee at the last meeting on the subject of procuring a Lodge room continue to lie on the table. Nothing is then heard of the matter for two months, until June 5th, when the committee on lot asked further time, and this is the last that is heard of that committee, which apparently died, and its effort to provide the new Lodge with a home.

On December 10, 1827, a year and a half later, a new committee was appointed, and we make the following quotation from the minutes of that date:

"On motion, Resolved that a committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take into consideration the propriety of purchasing a lot and building a Masonic Hall, and report all of the information as to the terms a lot could be procured at. Also the price of building and the amount of available funds in possession of the Lodge. Said committee shall have discretionary power to loan the money at interest or dispose of it to the best advantage until it is wanted, whereupon the W. M. appointed Samuel Hanna, A. L. Davis, A. Hamilton, Joseph Holman, I. B. Duret, Moses Thorp and John Tipton such committee."

This committee seems to have made more progress than the preceding committees, for on March 3, 1828, in the minutes of that date, we find the following report:

"The committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of ascertaining at what price a lot might be purchased for the erection of a Masonic Hall, reported they had purchased a half lot for that purpose and had

paid one-third of the purchase money, to-wit, \$5.00, which lot is opposite the residence of Bro. Joseph Holman."

On motion of Bro. Samuel Hanna, Resolved that the foregoing committee be instructed to purchase the whole of said lot, to-wit, Bro. Holman's part, and pay the whole amount due the proprietor, or purchase a different lot and pay for the same, after disposing of that part of the lot now owned by the Lodge.

Whether this committee was ever able to carry out its instructions, or whether this original purchase was disposed of and another made, is not disclosed by the records, but evidently some lot was at the time procured, and the committee died. In November of the same year we find in the minutes of November 3d, the following:

On motion, Resolved that a committee of three be appointed to ascertain what funds can be procured for the purpose of building a Masonic Hall in Fort Wayne by subscription or otherwise." The committee appointed consisted of Bros. Comparet, Davis and Thompson. On December 1st., of the same year, one month later, we find that a "committee of three was appointed to make a draft or drafts of a building for a Masonic Hall and report at our next regular communication. Said committee to consist of Bros. Ballard, Caswell and Thompson."

On February 2, 1829, we find the following minutes:

"The committee appointed to ascertain the probable expense of building a Masonic Hall, reported the same would cost \$1,721.00. On motion of Bro. S. Hanna, the following resolution was adopted, to-wit, Resolved that Bros. H. Hanna, W. N. Wood, Ballard, Gerrard, Joseph Holman and D. Archer be appointed a committee to contract with some person for the building of a Masonic Hall, and that said committee shall have the right to receive the present subscription raised for that purpose, which, together with any funds belonging to this Lodge are hereby appropriated for the purpose of building said Lodge and subject to be drawn by the committee, and the Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay over the same to their order, and be it further resolved that the afore-

said committee be authorized to purchase a lot in the town of Fort Wayne for the purpose of building said Hall on, and have the right to sell the one now owned by this Lodge to pay for the one procured if they think it advisable, and should the funds of said Lodge not be sufficient to pay for the erection and finishing of such a Lodge, the committee may give a lien on the same to the builders as security."

Further evidence of the earnestness of the members to carry out this project of securing a Hall, is shown by the following minutes of this same meeting of February 2nd:

"On motion of Bro. Hamilton, it was resolved by the members of this Lodge to pursue the building of Masonic Hall," and on motion, "Bros. Hamilton, Hood and Davis were appointed a committee to address a respectful letter to Messrs. Barr and McCorkle on the subject of donating a lot to this Lodge."

That a lot was purchased is shown by the minutes of March 2, 1829, wherein we find that on motion of Bro. Hamilton, it was "resolved that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay to John McCorkle, John T. Barr and Joseph Holman any money that may be due on the lot purchased for the use of this Lodge," and a committee of three was appointed to call on the County Board of Justices and make arrangements to borrow the county money to aid in building the Masonic Hall, which committee consisted of Bros. Davis, H. Hanna and Hood.

It would perhaps be too tiresome to follow the minutes through all of their references to this subject of building a Hall, but the matter is referred to in the minutes of April 6, 1829, May 4, 1829, July 13, 1829, July 18, 1829, November 2, 1829, June 7, 1830, September 13, 1830, February 6, 1832, and June 3, 1833, all of which disclose that numerous embarrassments arose in the matter of securing the money for the enterprise, and in collecting the money that was subscribed; also that judgement was taken against the contractors for labor performed on the building, and the Lodge endeavored to help them out as

best they could, even to the pledging of the dues of members in advance. Whether the building was ever completed is uncertain. As late as February 7, 1831, we have a report of a committee appointed to count and examine the brick work and plastering of the Masonic Hall, which reported that they had examined the Hall and counted the brick by measurement, but, quoting from the report, "from the situation the Hall is in from the snow and the plastering covering a part of the brick, it is impossible for your committee to ascertain the precise number and find the plastering unfinished." The original of this report is still on file. In the minutes of February 6, 1832, which approached so closely the time when the Lodge was compelled to discontinue by reason of adverse public sentiment, we find this reference in the minutes:

"On motion, it was resolved that Bros. H. Hanna, L. G. Thompson and Absolom Holcomb be appointed a committee to ascertain what price can be had for the Hall and so soon as a price will be offered to justify the sale of the Hall, to summons the Lodge and report their views of the probable value of the Hall and the amount then offered."

So far as is known, the Lodge held only four meetings after that before meetings were abandoned, the last being on June 3, 1833, when we find the following entry in the minutes:

"Bro. H. Rudisil, W. M., also reported that pursuant to an order of the Lodge of the 20th of February last, he had, after giving public notice by advertisement of the time, place and terms of sale, exposed the Masonic Hall and the lot on which it stands in the town of Fort Wayne to sale by public outcry, and that Joseph Holman, Richard L. Britton, Francis Comparet, Alexis Coquillard and Hugh Hanna were the highest bidders and became the purchasers of the premises aforesaid, at the sum of \$1,328.00 Which report on motion of Bro. Hamilton, was concurred in and confirmed by the Lodge."

It is reasonable to suppose that this Masonic Hall was completed, and occupied by the Lodge for a greater



or less period, and while the minutes do not disclose its location, it has been said that the building was located on a lot at the northeast corner of Columbia and Harrison streets, where the Bash block now stands, but perhaps the most authentic record of its location is that which we gather from the deed records of Allen County. Deed Record A, at page 211, of the deed records of Allen County, shows a deed dated February 23, 1829, by which John McCorkle and John T. Barr, in consideration of the sum of \$31.00, convey to "Wayne Lodge Number 25," a certain lot 60 by 150 feet, and which is shown to have been immediately west of lot number 48 in the original plat of the town of Fort Wayne, and on the west side of an alley, which separated the lot of Wayne Lodge from said lot number 48. This lot was on the north side of Columbia street immediately adjoining on the west an alley running north and south through said square about the center of the block between Calhoun and Harrison streets. This alley has long since been vacated, but the above description probably more accurately locates the original Masonic Hall of Fort Wayne than any other authority. We also find from Deed Record G, at page 68, of the deed records of Allen county, Indiana, that on November 25, 1843, in pursuance of a resolution passed by Wayne Lodge No. 25 at its meeting of November 18, 1843, that the Master and Wardens of Wayne Lodge, No. 25 deeded the property described in the first deed above referred to, to one "Drusus Nichols of the County of La-Grange and State of Indiana," in consideration of the sum of \$1,333.00, and this deed bears the signatures of "Jacob Hull, W. Master, Wm. W. Stevens, S. Warden, Smalwood Noel, J. Warden" and the deed was acknowledged by these officers before Henry Lotz, Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne.

In any event, judging from the fact of its incomplete condition, shown in the report of the meeting in November, 1831, and the sale of the lot in 1833, as reported above, and the information disclosed by the records as to the few meetings held during that period, the brothers

were not rewarded in the pleasure of freely meeting in their own building to the extent they deserved for the sincere and earnest effort made by them to acquire a Lodge home.

From a history, prepared by Bro. Robt. S. Robertson, in 1897, we learn that Wayne Lodge first had temporary quarters in the old fort, and afterward moved to what was known as "Washington Hall" on the southwest corner of Barr and Columbia streets, then to the Masonic Hall above referred to. The meeting of March 2, 1840, at which an effort was made to re-organize, it is understood was held at Kiser's Hall, which some of the brothers will even now remember was on the corner of the alley on the east side of Calhoun street, between Main and Columbia. It is understood that when a re-organization was perfected, and regular meetings were again held, commencing in 1856, that the meetings were held in this same hall until the Lodge moved to the MacDougal Block at the corner of Berry and Calhoun streets and afterwards to the Seidel Block, and in 1886 into the present Masonic Temple.

While Wayne Lodge, as an organization, has not been continuous since March 22, 1823 to the present time, and while its charter has once or twice been forfeited, it has never lost its identity in name and number, and no other Blue Lodge in Indiana has ever borne the title or number of "Wayne Lodge No. 25." Other Lodges of a smaller number were organized, but I am credibly informed that Wayne Lodge today is the third oldest Lodge in Indiana. In other words only two Blue Lodges exist today which were organized earlier than March 22, 1823. Other Lodges today bear numbers smaller than 25 by reason of the fact that the Lodges to which these numbers were first assigned, disorganized, and the numbers were given to Lodges organizing later. We have an instance in Fort Wayne of such an occurrence, in the fact that Home Lodge, instituted July 17, 1868, bears a smaller number—342—than Sol. D. Bayless Lodge 359, which was instituted on June 4, 1866, more than two years before.

The only other Blue Lodge in Fort Wayne, Summit City Lodge No. 170, is the second oldest Blue Lodge, and was instituted June 9, 1854.

In its list of W. M.'s, Wayne Lodge presents an array of citizens whose high character, both as citizens and Masons, are in keeping with the splendid history of the Lodge. From the institution of the Lodge to 1911, including our present W. M., this list is as follows:

1823—Alexander Ewing.

1823-24-25-26-27—Gen. John Tipton.

1828—Joseph Holman, Louis G. Thompson.

1829—Anthony L. Davis.

1830—Hugh Hanna, Absolom Holcomb.

1831-32—Samuel Hanna.

1833—Henry Rudisill, Samuel Edsell.

1840—Henry W. Rudisill.

1857-58-59-60—Joseph Johnson.

1861-62-63-64—Sol. D. Bayless.

1865-66-67-68—Samuel H. Shoaff.

1869-70—Andrew H. Hamilton.

1871-72—Everett G. Pierce.

1873—Sol D. Bayless.

1874—Andrew H. Hamilton.

1875—Daniel L. Harding.

1876—Charles D. Law.

1877—Thomas J. Rodabaugh.

1878—Daniel L. Harding.

1879—Samuel R. Mudge.

1880-81—Andrew H. Hamilton.

1882—David A. Robinson.

1883—Everett G. Pierce.

1884—Andrew H. Hamilton.

1885-86—Thomas J. Rodabaugh.

1887-88—James H. Brokaw.

1889-90—Edward O'Rourke, who also was Grand Master of Indiana during the years, 1895 and 1896.

1891—James C. Craig.

1892—Aaron VanBuskirk.

1893—Herman W. Tapp.

1894—John R. Kretsinger.  
 1895—James C. Craig.  
 1896—Charles B. Fitch.  
 1897—James H. Brokaw.  
 1898—Edwin D. Jump.  
 1899—Edwin J. Hollister.  
 1900—Harry W. Pierce.  
 1901—Isador I. Pottlitzer.  
 1902—Isador I. Pottlitzer.  
 1903—Edwin D. Jump.  
 1904—Henry Cohen.  
 1905—Jacob Duerr.  
 1906—Charles Alexander.  
 1907—Charles Alexander.  
 1908—Loren P. Sanders.  
 1909—Abram W. Beaber.  
 1910—Ben B. Sanders.  
 1911—Raymond F. Castle.

As I am informed, we now have no member whose membership existed prior to 1860. Without any question, the most eminent of these splendid Masons, measured by devotion to the Order, was Sol D. Bayless, W. M. of this Lodge for five years, from 1861 to 1864 and again in 1873, and in whose honor our local Blue Lodge, No. 359, was named. He also instituted, under dispensation, Summit City Lodge, which held its first stated meeting on June 16, 1854. As an evidence of the esteem in which Summit City Lodge, No. 170, held Bro. Bayless, on November 2, 1866, it unanimously adopted resolutions as follows:

“That this Lodge by unanimous consent declares Bro. Sol D. Bayless an Honorary Member of Summit City Lodge and entitled to all the privileges as such.

“That this Lodge feels deeply grateful to Bro. Sol D. Bayless for the many noble sacrifices he has made in the cause of Masonry, and we sincerely trust that he will meet with a full reward in the Grand Lodge above where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

“That each individual member of this Lodge owes a deep debt of gratitude to Bro. Bayless for his labors and teachings with us in the past when we were in our infancy and struggling for existence, and

“That we will ever hold him in grateful remembrance.”

This eminent brother was laid to rest with Masonic ceremonies under the auspices of Wayne Lodge No. 25, and all of the other Masonic bodies in Fort Wayne, on June 1, 1875, at which time, our honored Secretary, Bro. Daniel L. Harding, was W. M. Among the Masonic titles held by Bro. Bayless at the time of his death, were those of P. G. M., P. G. H. P., P. M. P. G. M. and P. R. E. G. C. of the State of Indiana.

Of this history we may all be, and are, justly proud, and indulge the fervent hope that our future may be equally brilliant.

At the close of the foregoing address, Brother Edward O'Rourke, P. G. M., moved that the address delivered by Brother Albert E. Thomas be published in the local papers, and that copies of it be printed in pamphlet form for distribution among the membership; which motion was seconded by Bro. Perry A. Randall, and carried by a rising vote. In pursuance of this action, the matter was brought to the attention of the Lodge at its stated meeting held on the 6th day of April, 1911, and a committee appointed to secure the printing of these pamphlets; which motion and action of the Lodge is the authority upon which this history is published.



# By-Laws





# BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I.

### REGULAR MEETINGS.

The regular meetings of this Lodge shall be on the first Thursday of each month.

## ARTICLE II.

### OFFICERS.

The officers of this Lodge shall consist of a Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, who shall act as trustees, a Treasurer and Secretary, who shall be chosen by ballot at the first stated meeting in December, a Senior and Junior Deacon, two Stewards and Tiler who shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master on the night of his election or before his installation.

## ARTICLE III.

### DUTY OF W. M.

It shall be the duty of the W. M. to see that the regulations of the Grand Lodge as well as the By-Laws of his own Lodge be justly enforced and promptly obeyed, to call special meetings when requested by five members, or when, in his opinion, any necessity therefor shall exist; give, or cause to be given, to the brethren, at each regular meeting, when time will permit, the benefit of a lecture; on the night of his installation he shall appoint three members of his Lodge to be denominated a Standing or Business Committee; he shall have power to appoint all committees or officers not designated in the By-Laws, unless he may choose to waive such right in favor of the Lodge in which case, a ballot may be had, if a majority so decide.

## ARTICLE IV.

### DUTIES OF WARDENS.

In the absence of the W. M. the Senior Warden will succeed to his duties; and in the absence of the W. M. and Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, shall preside. In the absence of all of the above officers, no Lodge can be congregated. Any work performed, ceremony administered, or decision made by Warden, when presiding, shall be as legal as though done by the W. M. The W. M. or presiding Warden, may, after congregating the Lodge waive his right to preside in favor of any competent brother present, when, should all the governing officers retire, the work and business of the Lodge may legally proceed.

## ARTICLE V.

### DUTY OF TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall receive all money from the hands of the Secretary, pass his receipt for the same, keep a regular account of all the receipts and expenditures, pay all orders duly drawn on him by the W. M., or the Relief Committee, and give bond and security, if required by the Lodge, for the faithful performance of his duties.

## ARTICLE VI.

### DUTY OF SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall keep a true record of all the proceedings of the Lodge, issue summons for convening the same, deliver to any member, on application, who is entitled thereto, a Diploma, drawn up in proper form, (provided the applicant furnishes a proper blank for the same,) read the minutes of the previous meeting at the opening of the Lodge; also, to read petitions, reports of Committees, and other documents, when ordered by the W. M.; to demand and receive all fees and dues; pay the same immediately to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same, and make out and transmit to the Grand Lodge the annual account current drawn up in proper form, and

keep accounts between the Lodge and its members, and receive such compensation as the Lodge sees fit to grant and shall give bond and security, if required by the Lodge, for the faithful performance of his duty.

## ARTICLE VII.

### DUTY OF DEACONS.

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to assist the W. M. and Wardens in conducting the business of the Lodge, such as the reception of candidates into the different degrees of Masonry, introduction and accommodation of visitors.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### DUTY OF TYLER.

The Tyler shall tyle the Lodge faithfully, serve all summons, and go on all messages, for which services he shall be entitled to such compensation as the Lodge may determine.

## ARTICLE IX.

### DUTY OF TRUSTEES.

The Trustees shall have charge of all property of the Lodge. They shall judiciously invest such funds as the Lodge may from time to time direct and perform such other duty as the Lodge may require.

## ARTICLE X.

### CHARITY COMMITTEE.

The Worshipful Master and Wardens shall be, ex officio, a Charity Committee, a majority of whom shall have power, during the recess of the Lodge to draw on the Treasurer for any amouna not exceeding five dollars for the relief of any one person, and report the same to the Lodge at its next stated meeting.

## ARTICLE XI.

### DUES.

Every member of this Lodge shall pay to the proper

officers the sum of three dollars per year, payable annually, unless remitted by the Lodge.

## ARTICLE XII.

### STANDING COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee to examine the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, and exhibit a written report of the same to the Lodge at the stated meeting in January of each year; to hear, and if possible, determine all complaints against any brother, and report the result of their proceedings to the Lodge at its next stated meeting except in cases of frivolous and false accusations.

## ARTICLE XIII.

### CANDIDATES.

All petitions for initiation or membership must be made in writing, signed by the petitioner, and recommended by at least two members of the Lodge.

Petitions must be presented at a stated meeting, referred to a committee for investigation, and then lay over for at least four weeks.

## ARTICLE XIV.

### PETITIONS.

On receiving a petition for membership or initiation the W. M. shall appoint three Master Masons, who are members of this Lodge, whose duty it shall be to make diligent inquiry into the applicant's moral character and standing, and make their report in open Lodge at the next stated meeting, whereupon the candidate shall be balloted for immediately, unless a majority, by vote, postpone; and if rejected, the money accompanying the petition shall be refunded to the Petitioner through one of the recommenders.

## ARTICLE XV.

### FEES.

The fee for initiation, Passing and Raising, shall be fifty dollars, which must be deposited with the Secretary before the candidate is initiated. No fee for admission by demit shall be charged.

## ARTICLE XVI.

### ARREARS.

Any member who shall be more than one year in arrears for dues, may be suspended from all the rights and privileges of Masonry.

## ARTICLE XVII.

### BUSINESS.

All business proposed for the consideration of this Lodge shall be brought forward by motion or resolution, and decided by a majority of the members present.

All debates and business shall be conducted according to parliamentary rules.

## ARTICLE XVIII.

### SPEAKING.

Every member who wishes to speak on any subject shall rise, stand in the degree of the Lodge, and address himself to the W. M., and shall not be interrupted while speaking, if in order.

## ARTICLE XIX.

### TIME.

No member shall speak more than twice on any one subject, nor longer at any one time than ten minutes, without leave of the brethren.

## ARTICLE XX.

### ENTERING OR LEAVING.

No brother shall enter or leave the Lodge during business hours, without permission from the W. M.

## ARTICLE XXI.

### UNMASONIC CONDUCT.

Any member or brother, within the jurisdiction of this Lodge, who shall be guilty of intoxication, profanity, gambling or any other species of immoral or unmasonic conduct, shall be cited to appear before the Lodge. The offender may be expelled, suspended or reprimanded by the W. M., a majority of the members present concurring therein.

## ARTICLE XXII.

### CHARGES.

All charges must be made in writing, setting forth the offense committed and specifications thereof, with the names of the witnesses, and presented at a stated meeting, when they shall be read in open Lodge and spread upon the minutes of the Lodge. The W. M. shall then set a time for trial, and order the Secretary to serve upon the accused a copy of the charges and specifications, and names of witnesses, and also notify him of the time set for trial; but in no case shall there be less than ten days' notice given. The Secretary may serve the notice either in person or by mail; but when sent by mail a reasonable time shall be allowed the accused to receive it in addition to the ten days.

At the time set for trial, if the accused fail to appear in person, or by counsel, or if he has absconded before notice is served, the W. M. may continue to some future time, or appoint a competent brother to appear for him, and hear and decide upon the case as though he were present.

Should the accused appear and plead guilty to the



charges and specifications, no further evidence is necessary and the Lodge shall at once proceed to affix the penalty.

### ARTICLE XXIII.

#### BY-LAWS RECORDED.

These By-Laws, together with such other regulations as the Lodge may adopt, shall be recorded in a book prepared for that purpose by the Secretary; and every member of this Lodge shall sign his name thereto.

### ARTICLE XXIV.

#### OPENING AND CLOSING.

The Lodge shall, at all meetings, be opened within fifteen minutes of the time appointed, in due and ancient form; and when the work for which the Lodge was opened has been performed, it must be closed in such manner.

### ARTICLE XXV.

#### CALLED MEETINGS.

Called meetings are those convened by the presiding master of which, as far as practicable, each member should have due notice; Provided, that no business except trials, conferring degrees, or ceremonial observances, shall be transacted at such called meeting; nor shall the Lodge be convened on Sunday except for funeral purposes.

### ARTICLE XXVI.

#### DEPARTMENT OF MEMBERS.

Regular and orderly deportment shall be observed by the members and brethren during Lodge hours. No religious or political dispute shall be introduced. No brother shall disclose any opinion or statement given in the Lodge, or any of the transactions thereof to strangers. Moving from one seat to another, or holding private conversations during Lodge hours while there is a presiding

officer, is strictly forbidden. The penalty for the violation of any part of this section may be expulsion, suspension, or reprimand, as the Lodge may determine by a majority of the members present concurring, after due notice and trial.

## ARTICLE XXVII.

### BALLOTING.

An unanimous ballot in favor of a candidate shall be necessary for his admission; provided, that if one black ball only appears, a second balloting shall be had immediately; but in no case shall there be more than two ballotings.

## ARTICLE XXVIII.

### ALTERING OR AMENDING.

Any alteration or amendment proposed to these By-Laws shall be handed in to the Lodge at a stated meeting, in writing, read, and laid over until the next stated meeting, at which time it may be adopted, by a majority of the members present concurring.



**Officers and  
Roster of Membership**

OFFICERS OF WAYNE LODGE NO. 25  
F. AND A. M.

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FOR 1911

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RAYMOND F. CASTLE, W. M.

ALBERT E. THOMAS, S. W.

ROBERT F. HARDING, J. W.

FRANK P. WILT, Treasurer.

DANIEL L. HARDING, Secretary.

ROBERT GASKILL, S. D.

FRANKLIN W. PIFER, J. D.

CHARLES W. GROSVENOR, Steward.

FRANKLIN H. GAYLORD, Steward.

BEN B. SANDERS, Tyler.

## MEMBERSHIP.

Ackerman, Simon  
 Adams, John W.  
 Alden, Samuel R.  
 Allen, Geo. H.  
 Alexander, Charles  
 Anderson, John W.  
 Archer, Charles  
 Armstrong, James A.  
 Ash, Henry J.  
 Babb, M. Edward  
 Baker, Josiah C. M.  
 Bardon, Richard J.  
 Barrett, James M.  
 Barthold, Fred M.  
 Barthold, Harry  
 Bash, Daniel F.  
 Bayer, Coony  
 Bayer, Frederick  
 Bayer, William A.  
 Beaber, Abram W.  
 Beahler, John E.  
 Bell, Edgar L.  
 Belott, George E.  
 Beneke, Henry G.  
 Bessert, Gustav  
 Bisel, Elmer E.  
 Bitner, Irving E.  
 Bitner, John R.  
 Bitner, Arthur P.  
 Blitz, Max  
 Blondoit, Wm. H.  
 Bloom, Nathan W.  
 Bogart Wm. W.  
 Bond, Albert S.

Bond, Charles E.  
 Borhek, Herman  
 Brokaw, Oscar R.  
 Brady, Wm. B.  
 Brewer, John W.  
 Brown, Clarence M.  
 Bursley, Joseph A.  
 Burgett, Wm. H.  
 Byall, Floyd S.  
 Cartwright, Porter  
 Castle, Raymond F.  
 Cassady, Peter L.  
 Chapin, Ralph E.  
 Chapman, James P.  
 Chase, Eugene  
 Clark, Ralph  
 Cline, Hallie C.  
 Close, John W.  
 Cocherl, Mark  
 Cohen, Henry  
 Cook, Ernest W.  
 Copinius, Albert  
 Cotner, Edward G.  
 Craig, James C.  
 Craig, James T.  
 Cran, Charles W.  
 Crawford, D. Frank  
 Crosby, Fred V.  
 Crosby, Edward C.  
 Damers, S. N.  
 Deihl, Hugh M.  
 Dennis, Bert R.  
 Daseler, Chas. H.  
 Doctor, Wm. L.

Dougall, John T.  
Downing, Myron  
Duerr, Jacob  
Dunbar, Samuel  
Durfee, George  
Edwards, Joseph  
Eckart, Dave S.  
Eckart, Fred  
Edgar, Harry V.  
Emrick, Frank A.  
Estry, Elwood T.  
Ettleson, Harry W.  
Evans, Henry L.  
Evans, Harry J.  
Evans, John H.  
Fackler, Phillip O.  
Fells, Daniel M.  
Falk, Ben  
Ferguson, John  
Fitch, Chas. B.  
Fitch, Delmar C.  
Fleming, Oliver E.  
Ford, Guy B.  
Foster, Samuel M.  
Frankhauser, Fred  
Frech, William  
Frye, Jerome B.  
Gaskill, Robert  
Gaylord, Franklin H.  
Gould, Harry G.  
Graham, James A.  
Graham, Geo. E.  
Grenberg, E.  
Griffin, Leon R.  
Grosjean, Roy O.  
Grosvenor, Charles W.  
Grosvenor, Wm. C.  
Hake, Louis  
Hall, Arthur F.

Hall, Thomas N.  
Hall, George B.  
Hamilton, Fred R.  
Hamm, Benjamin W.  
Hamm, John  
Hanna, Joseph T.  
Harding, Daniel L.  
Harding, Robert F.  
Harris, Zac. A.  
Hartzler, LeRoy  
Haslam, Alfred E.  
Heaton, Ben. F.  
Heaton, Owen N.  
Hebert, John E.  
Hemhardt, Chas. F.  
Hessler, Joe.  
Hilton, Wm. D.  
Hipp, Edward J.  
Hobson, Wm. A.  
Holmes, Abram T.  
Hulse, Elwin M.  
Jensen, Hans P.  
Johnston, David D.  
Johnson, Edward S.  
Jones, Abner T.  
Jump, Edwin D.  
Kaade, Herman E.  
Kaade, William E.  
Katzenberg, Adolph  
Kedcham, Gustan  
Kelley, John B.  
Kelsey, Frank W.  
Kennedy, Geo. E.  
Killen, George J.  
Kivz, Josiah  
Kittering, N. Curtis  
Klett, William B.  
Koester, John V.  
Koepf, John

Krueger, Frank C.  
Kuhne, Charles W.  
Ladd, Franklin B.  
Laugherty, C. Frank  
Leach, William  
Lehman, Oliver W.  
Leonard, Walter M.  
Lewis, James D.  
Lipsett, Wm. E.  
Lucas, Charles O.  
McCoy, Angus C.  
McDole, Henry G.  
McDonald, Geo. P.  
McKee, Geo. W.  
McMahon, Sylvester  
Martin, William  
Mains, Harry C.  
Matott, Arthur J.  
Maxwell, Archibald H.  
Mercer, Ellis  
Miller, Beecher D.  
Miller, Eli J.  
Minsky, Abe  
Minsky, A. Dave  
Minsky, Samuel  
Monia, Charles H.  
Monson, Lonson W.  
Morrison, Martin H.  
Morris, John  
Moses, Homer P.  
Neal, Charles F.  
Neuhoff, Benjamin  
Nohr, Robert  
Neischang, Chas. C. F.  
Nelson, Chas. A.  
Opatz, Frank A.  
Ortlieb, F. Wm.  
O'Rourke, Edward  
Olds, Clarence A.

Parker, Oliver  
Parks, Emanuel W.  
Peterson, Eric  
Pettit, Rutherford S.  
Pierce, Harry W.  
Pietz, Louis F.  
Pifer, Franklin W.  
Porter, Miles F.  
Porter, Hiram  
Porter, Chas. W.  
Pottlitzer, Isadore  
Probasco, Wm. J.  
Puckett, E. Wesley  
Ragan, Charles  
Randall, Perry A.  
Rastetter, Wm. C.  
Reinking, Fred W.  
Reul, John V.  
Reynolds, John W.  
Risk, Atala  
Rodabaugh, Thomas J.  
Rogge, Gust. F.  
Roembke, Herman E.  
Rang, Robert L.  
Rosenthal, Maurice  
Ross, John E.  
Ross, George A.  
Ryberg, Chas. O.  
Sale, John W.  
Sanders, Loren P.  
Sanders, Ben B.  
Sanders, Stone A.  
Scheffler, Gustan L.  
Scheid, Peter  
Scheid, Frover C.  
Schwabe, Richard J.  
Schwartz, Alfred  
Seeley, Albert J.  
Seelberg, Edmund

Schulman, Max  
Singmaster, Joe M.  
Sloat, Harry W.  
Smith Frank C.  
Soloman, Arthur  
Stahl, Chas. F.  
Stephan, William  
Stoll, Henry  
Sunderland, Carl P.  
Sutton, David  
Sutton, Sylvester F.  
Swain, James E.  
Sweet, Kent  
Sweet, Warren  
Sweeney, Daniel J.  
Thieme, John A.  
Thieme, Frederiek J.  
Thimlar, J. Wiley  
Thomas Albert E.  
Trythal, James  
Turflinger, Thomas  
Vesey, William J.  
Vesey, Dick N.

Vesey, Will J., Jr.  
Viberg, Russell S.  
Wagner, John T.  
Wallace, John  
Waters, John S.  
Watt, Wm. H.  
Weil, Abraham  
Weil, Isaac  
Weiler, Arthur C.  
Welsheimer, Wm. T.  
Whitehead, Arthur  
Williams, Arthur  
Williams, Justus W.  
Wilt, Frank P.  
Wilson, Geo. W.  
Wilson, Harry  
Wilding, Charles  
Wiltoncox, Charles  
Winbaugh, Chas. W.  
Wisniewski, Frank  
Worch, Louis A.  
Zarbaugh, Philip L.  
Zwahlen, Harry A.























