



Free and Accepted Masons

PROFESSOR ALBERT A. FAUROT

THE beginning of Masonry in Terre Haute was practically contemporary with the laying out of the town and the organization of Vigo County. Among the first settlers were Masons from various eastern lodges. There is no doubt that these brothers got together frequently and discussed topics of common interest. These friendly chats led to definite plans for the organization of a lodge. The first formal meeting of record was held March 10, 1819, at which a petition to the Grand Lodge for a charter was drawn up and signed by the following men: Peter B. Allen, John T. Chunn, Lucius H. Scott, Toussaint Dubois, Jas. Hall, Andrew Brooks, Z. C. Hovey, Demas Deming, Curtis

room in the second story of the Eagle and Lion tavern on the Southeast corner of First and Wabash and here the brethren continued to meet until the summer of 1822 when they moved to a room in Brother Francis Cunningham's tavern on the northwest corner of Second and Wabash. The next lodge room was in the Light Horse tavern at the Northeast corner of Third and Wabash.

The lodge continued to hold its meetings more or less regularly until in the late '20s the anti-masonic wave, started by the well-known "Morgan abduction case", spread over the country, when public sentiment, combined with hard times and prevailing sickness caused a decline



MASONIC TEMPLE

The fine Masonic Temple on North Eighth Street was erected by the combined efforts of Terre Haute Lodge, Social Lodge, Euclid Lodge and Humboldt Lodge, the Commandery, the Council and the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, each body holding one-seventh of the stock. Ground was broken for the building Nov. 25, 1915 and the completed Temple dedicated July 9, 1917. It represents an investment of about \$150,000. All the above masonic bodies as well as the Eastern Star Lodge No. 43, hold their meetings in the Temple. The Board of Directors is composed of James A. Mitchell, Wm. H. Baugh, William Kipple, Richard P. Gillum, John R. Hunter, C. P. Sousley and Lester E. Jack.

Gilbert, Samuel McQuilkin, Robert Brasher, Thomas H. Clark and Elihu Hovey. A dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge and on July 12, 1819 Anno Lucis 5819, A. D. 1819 about twenty brethren assembled, elected and installed Peter Benson Allen as worshipful master, Elihu Hovey, senior warden, Lucius H. Scott, junior warden and Curtis Gilbert, secretary. The lodge thus organized continued to work under dispensation till it received its charter as Terre Haute Lodge No. 19, dated October 21, 1821.

The first formal meeting of the Lodge was held without doubt in the house of Curtis Gilbert situated on the northeast corner of Water and Ohio Streets where the jail now stands. Soon after its organization, however, it secured a

of Masonic activities and finally complete suspension of the lodge work in 1834. This anti-masonic craze lasted about fifteen years and then died out as quickly as it had arisen. In 1845 Number 19 was revived, its charter was restored and it entered upon a period of prosperity which has never been interrupted since. In 1848 the lodge secured rooms in the Ross Building on Third Street across from the Court House. By 1850 the membership had become so large that some of the brethren thought there was room for a second lodge and twenty-three of them withdrew and number 19 gave a warm welcome to her offspring, Social Lodge No. 86.

The masters of No. 19 previous to 1850 were—Peter B. Allen, Demas Deming, Samuel McQuilkin, Lucius H. Scott,

Thomas H. Clark, Elijah Tillotson, Henry Allen, John F. Cruft, Ransom Miller, James S. Freeman, Dayton Topping and J. Albert Lange.

Other early masons whose names were closely linked with the early history of Terre Haute were Francis Cunningham, Josephus Collett, Wm. K. Edwards, Amory Kinney, Thomas Dowling, John Brittain, Caleb Crawford, Samuel Hager, Robert Harrison, David Danaldson, Zebulon T. Moss, Lyndon A. Smith, and Richard W. Thompson.

The present membership of No. 19 is 1284. William G. Adams is master for 1938, Horace E. Tune, treasurer and John R. Hunter, secretary.

SOCIAL LODGE NO. 86

On October 9, 1849 a dispensation was issued by the Grand Master for a group of masons headed by Dayton Topping to organize a new lodge in Terre Haute, and under date of May 29, 1850, a charter was issued to them as Social Lodge No. 86. The first master under the charter was Thomas L. Marshall. This lodge has enjoyed prosperity throughout its 88 years of existence and has now 937 members with John A. Graam as master.

HUMBOLDT LODGE

No. 42 was organized June 23, 1869 under a dispensation from the Grand Master of Indiana with Phillip Schloss as Master. Its charter was duly granted May 24, 1870. Its early membership was composed of Germans and until 1914 all business was conducted in German. Since then English has been used. The lodge has had a continuously prosperous existence and has counted among its members many of the leading citizens of Terre Haute. It now has 256 members, Walter F. Fellman is Worshipful Master.

EUCLID LODGE

Euclid Lodge No. 573 was chartered May 25, 1886 with Julius F. Roedel as its first master. It now has 804 members. Starling A. Hamilton is master for 1938.

WILLIAM PENN LODGE

The baby of the blue lodges in the city is William Penn Lodge No. 727 which received its charter May 22, 1928. Chas. W. West was its first master. Its lodge rooms are over the Peoples State Bank at Twelve Points. It now has 163 members with Edward S. Everett as master.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Terre Haute Chapter No. 11 was organized March 24, 1849 and worked under dispensation till it was chartered May 26, 1849. James T. Moffatt served as the first high priest. Its present membership is 556. Hugh L. Barr is now high priest.

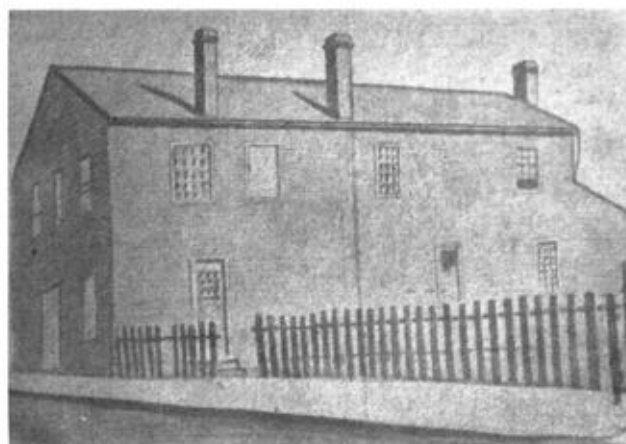
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

Terre Haute Council No. 8 was chartered May 29, 1856. The first illustrious master was John Sayre. The Council now has 356 members presided over by Alfred E. Rhein.

The Terre Haute Council has had five of its members elected to the office of Illustrious Grand: Alexander Thomas, Thomas B. Lane, James K. Allen, Conrad J. Herber and Clarence P. Sousley.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The Grand Commandery of Indiana was formed May 16, 1854 and issued a dispensation to the Knights Templar



*First frame building in Terre Haute erected 1816
First office of Clerk of Vigo County 1818.
First meeting place of Masonic Lodge 1819*

located at Terre Haute to form a Commandery under title of Dowling Commandery. On May 14, 1867 the Commandery was organized and began working.

The work was satisfactory to the Grand Commandery of Indiana, they then had a membership of twenty-one, and a Charter was issued as of April 8, 1868.

The first officers under the Charter were: Sir General Charles Cruft, Eminent Commander; Sir George W. Haverly, Generalissimo; Sir Lyndon A. Smith, Captain General; Sir Rev. Thomas Mills Martin, Prelate; Sir Alexander Thomas, Senior Warden; Sir George A. Pomeroy, Junior Warden; Sir John Abbott, Treasurer; Sir Fred Schwingrowler, Recorder; Sir Simon Wolf, Standard Bearer; Sir Hardin A. Davis, Sword Bearer; Sir Stephen Fitz Randolph, Warder; and Sir William H. Reese, Captain Guard.

On April 5, 1871, the name of Dowling Commandery was changed by petition to and resolution of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar to Terre Haute Commandery No. 16.

Terre Haute Commandery has furnished three Grand Commanders for Knights Templar of Indiana: R. E. General Charles Cruft; R. E. Alexander Thomas and R. E. William E. Perryman. Walter G. Rice is now Grand Senior Warden.

The commandery now has 273 members. Merrill H. Dunham is eminent commander.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Terre Haute Chapter No. 43 was granted a charter April 15, 1880, Mrs. Alice C. Graff being the first worthy Matron and Dr. Robert Van Valzah the first patron. It now has a membership of 957. Mrs. Chester C. Smith is worthy matron.

The Eastern Star has furnished three Grand Matrons for the Grand Chapter of Indiana, Anna V. Lakin, Eva Hollinger, and Sarah E. Gardiner.

TWELVE POINTS CHAPTER NO. 528 O.E.S.

The Twelve Points Chapter No. 528 was instituted in March, 1929 and constituted in May, 1930. This chapter has added greatly to the fine community spirit so apparent in the north part of the city and has grown from 30 charter members to 177 in 1938. The first three officers were: Mildred Compton, Worthy Matron; Arthur Brown, Worthy Patron; and Jess W. Penna, Associate Matron.