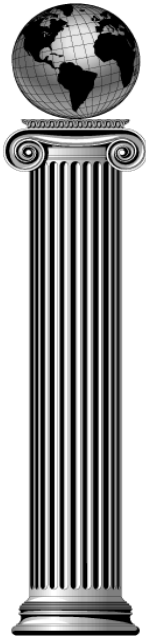


SHELBYVILLE - SHELBY COUNTY, Kentucky 1800

HISTORICAL REMARKS



Solomon's Lodge No. 5 and Lexington Lodge No. 1 are the only Lodges of the original five that constituted the grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1800, which have been continuously at work since that date. The following, dated July 10th, 1800, appears on the records of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. "A dispensation was issued and signed by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, to authorize the opening of a lodge in Shelbyville, in the state of Kentucky, appointing Simon Adams Master, James Wardlaw Senior Warden and William J. Tunst Junior Warden, the brethren in the petition, and having made choice of a name already appropriated, a blank space was left in the Dispensation for them to fill up with a name inappropriate. The Grand Secretary of Virginia says, "From advices subsequently received it appears that the said lodge is called Abraham Lodge." This lodge was working at Shelbyville under the above Dispensation at the assemblage of the Convention of September



8th, 1800, but was allowed to have representation the rein: and at the first session of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, October 16th, 1800, was recognized as Solomon's Lodge #5.

In accordance with resolutions adapted October 17th, 1800 the five Lodges constituting the Grand Lodge of Kentucky delivered to the Grand Lodge the Charters & c., under which they had been working, and as the Grand Lodge had no seal or parchment or vellum proper for making out the Charters, they received temporary Charters, which were to be returned at the next stated meeting of the Grand Lodge and other Charters executed in due form to be then given in lieu of them. Lodges Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 paid Five Pounds each for their Charter and No. 5 paid Ten Pounds for its Charter.

The Charters in due form were not issued until October 12th, 1803, and had a certificate added to them signed by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary and under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, that they were true transcripts of the original Charter which were filed with the archives of the Grand Lodge.

The History of Freemasonry in Kentucky, Published in 1859, by Rob Morris, says No. 4 has the only one of these 1803 transcripts of the original Charter, this is a mistake as No. 5 also has one and also had a transcript of the 1803 transcript dated August 27th,

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1821. The Transcript of 1803 is slightly mutilated or as the 1821 transcript says “met with a casualty.”

The Lodge met at the residences of Robert Moore and James Craig and afterwards rented quarters above a store kept on Main Street by a man named Hughes .

On July 14, 1802 , there were over fifty members enrolled, and the idea of purchasing a lot and building a Lodge Room began to be agitated, William J. Tunstall, John Allen, Isaac Watkins and James Wardlaw were appointed a committee to draft a plan for the building and submit a calculation as to probable cost of same and to make inquiry as to where a suitable lot could be obtained.

On March 8th, 1802 John McGaughey was initiated and within five days he had taken the three degrees, he was made a Master Mason the 13th day of that month.

He was an enthusiastic Mason from the start, the records show that the whole membership was entertained at his house on several occasions, and when the committee reported that they were having trouble in securing a lot on which to build a Lodge Room, he went before the Lodge and proposed to give them a lot 40x224 on Washington Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets. His offer was accepted, and he and his wife transferred the lot by deed now of record dated September 1st, 1804, in the Shelby County Clerk’s Office.

The plans or the building as recommended by the Committee were as follows: The building was to be or brick with stone foundation and 23x35 from out to out, the first story eleven feet in the clear and the second ten feet in the clear, there were to be chimneys at each end and two outdoors and the nine windows were each to have twenty four lights, the walls of the first story were to be eighteen inches and walls of the upper story were to be thirteen inches thick.

Abraham Owen, Wingfield Bullock, John Bradshaw, Obediah Clark, James Moore and John McGaughey were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions.

The money was obtained and the contract for the building was left to John H. Bullock who agreed to complete it for \$1,499.00 and Wingfield Bullock and James Craig became his sureties for the faithful compliance with his contract.

The records show that the building was received December 5th, 1805, and on the evening of that day the first meeting was held in the new building and dedicatory services were conducted by James Moore, although the records say “the building was not quite completed.”

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The upper story was used as a Lodge Room and the lower story rented for a school. The Lodge owned this property until 1836.

The Lodge, in consideration of the faithful services of Henry Burnett, who had been Tyler for many years, gave his this house and lot as per deed of record August 26, 1836.

In July 1839 Bros. William Cardwell, William Kinkade and E.N. Woolfork bought of G.W. Dashiell, a house and lot on the South West corner of Public Square and Fifth Street and on September 10th. 1839, William Cardwell bought the one third interest of E.N. Woolfork, this lot was part of lot No. 41 on the plat of the town. The County records show that this property was sold to the Rev. G.W. Dashiell and Espicopalian minister in 1833 and was at that time occupied as a church.

From the will of William Cardwell we find that in 1839 the Lodge built a second story on this property, the Lodge is thought to have moved from Washington Street to this property some time previous to 1836 as in that year it gave the Washington Street house and lot Henry Burnett, just when and why the Lodge left Washington Street is not known as the record books for several years at that period are missing. On February 14th. 1846 this Lodge bought the one third interest of William Kinkade for \$210.00 .

The will of William Cardwell was probated at the September Term 1849 of the Shelby County Court, in it he gives the Lodge the right to use the second story free of cost as long as it is a Lodge, if the Lodge Ceased to exist the part built by them should revert to the owners of the lot or the Lodge could buy his two thirds interest in the property for \$420.00, or said property should be vested in such Trustees as the Lodge souls appoint to be held by them as long as Solomon's Lodge should exist and work, and in case said Lodge should cease to exist then for the property to pass under the control of the Trustees of Town of Shelbyville to be rented out by them and after paying taxes and all necessary repairs the balance was to be appropriated annually to the education of indigent children of Shelbyville giving preference to orphan children of Master Masons, if the Lodge should decide not to accept any of these terms, his Executor should rent the property and apply net proceeds to the education of indigent children of Master Masons, so long as his Executor may think proper and then sell at the best price he can secure and convey the same to the purchaser.

The Lodge did not accept any of these terms, and on December 12th. 1859 J. M. Owen the Executor sent a communication to the Lodge in regard to the property. May the 15th. 1860, Brother Jerma Baker by instruction of the Lodge bought from Executor of William Cardwell the two thirds interest for \$400.00 and on May 18th. 1861. Baker and wife deeded it to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of Solomon's Lodge No. 5

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for \$425.00, this property has been the Home of Solomon's Lodge No. 5 continuously for more than seventy five years, the present building was built in 1884 for \$2,875.00 and is the third built by the Lodge on this lot.

Solomon's Mark Master Lodge No. 5 was working from June 25th, 1802 to October 8th, 1816 as per minute book in possession of this Lodge.

Solomon's Royal Arch Chapter was working in 1804, 1805, and 1806. In 1806 the members became doubtful as to their authority to work and suspended meetings as per minute book now in possession of Lodge. In 1816 Shelbyville Royal Arch Chapter #2, was authorized.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge, October 1801, this Lodge petitioned for leave to initiate John Pope an applicant who had lost his right arm, and the Grand Lodge granted the request. He demitted from number 5 in 1804. John Pope was one of the Presidential Electors for Kentucky 1801, Represented Shelby County in the Legislature 1802, was United States Senator from Kentucky in 1807 to 1813, appointed Governor Territory of Arkansas by President Jackson 1829 to 1835, was Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky 1816.

Solomon's Lodge No. 5 sent up two copies of its By-Laws to the Grand Lodge in March 1804, the first notice of the existence of By-Laws as yet made.

The following Brothers were prominent in Masonry in Kentucky: Simon Adams was the representative of Abraham's Lodge held under dispensation at Shelbyville in the Convention September 8th, 1800, which organized the Grand Lodge. He was one of the Committee of Five appointed to draft an Address to the Grand Lodge of Virginia detailing the necessity of separation. He was present as Master of Abraham Lodge at the Preparatory Lodge October 16th, 1800, and was elected the same day Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

He was Chairman of a Committee of three, appointed to draft a Circular Letter to the Grand Lodge of the United States, detailing the causes which led to the separation , and the document was probably from his pen.

He appeared in his seat as Senior Grand Warden at the Sessions of February and October 1801, and represented Solomon's Lodge No. 5 as Master; was re-elected Senior Grand Warden October 1801 in which capacity, and as Master of No. 5 he was present at the Grand Master pro tem in April 1803, and as Senior Grand Warden 1803. This year he was on the roll of No. 5 as Past Master. The Grand Lodge instructed him to visit Lodges Nos. 5, 6 and 8 to inspect their working and make report next session to the Grand Lodge. No.5 reports him from 1804 to 1808 as a Past Master. In 1810

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Simon Adams is reported by No. 5 dead, with this explanatory note, "It is here to be noted that Bro. Simon Adams, who was the first Master of this Lodge but for some time having withdrawn, is dead. The Lodge had considered him as an Honorary Member, with the privilege of attending the Lodge when he could make it convenient, in token of our remembrance for the important services he rendered this Lodge, and his devotion to the Institution. We therefore beg liberty of making this Communication to the Grand Lodge.

James Moore:- Mr. Moore first appears on the records of the Grand Lodge October 1803 as one of the Two Representatives of Solomon's Lodge #5, he was elected Junior Grand Warden 1803, Senior Grand Warden 1806, Deputy Grand Master 1813, Grand Master 1814. In 1806 James Moore, Cary L. Clark and John Simpson were appointed a Committee to compile a book of Constitutions adapted to Kentucky. James Moore and Cary L. Clark compiled this book adopted by the Grand Lodge March 1808 and Five Hundred Copies ordered printed. This was the first book of a Masonic Character ever published in the west. On the rolls of No. 5 he appears in 1802 as a private member, in April 1803 as Junior Warden, October 1803 Senior warden, 1804 and 1806 Master: 1807 Treasurer. His history is a part of the early history of Masonry in this Jurisdiction. He died March 9th. 1825. and was buried at Shelbyville with Masonic Rites. He was the first Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

James Wardlaw : He was present as Senior Warden of Abraham's Lodge U. D., at the preparatory Lodge October 16th. 1800, in the same capacity he appeared at the February Session of 1801, in the roll of membership of Solomon's Lodge # 5 for 1803 he was recorded as Master; in 1804 as Past Master . He demitted from this lodge December 14th. 1805.

John Bradshaw :- Was probably a charter member of this Lodge. He was Grand Junior Deacon 1803, Master of Solomon's Lodge 1805 and filled many offices in the Lodge. In 1793 he bought the first lot sold in the town of Shelbyville for Two Pounds and Twenty Shillings, and the property now owned and used by Solomon's Lodge is a part of that lot. He died in 1842.

Abraham Owen:- Served as Grand Senior Warden in March 1805, was Master of Solomon's Lodge in 1808, was appointed by Governor Isaac Shelby, August 9th. 1792 one of the Four first Justices of the Peace of Shelby County, was appointed November 6th. 1792 one of the Four Trustees to lay out the town of Shelbyville. He was killed at the Battle of Tippecanoe November 7th. 1811, while serving as volunteer aide as Colonel on the staff of Governor Harrison.

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John Simpson:- Was a member of the Lodge in 1800, was Deputy Grand Master 1808,1809 and 1810, was Grand Master in 1811;Master of Solomon's Lodge No. 5 in 1803 and 1807; represented Shelby County in the Legislature 1806 to 1811; member of Congress in 1812, when the President called on Kentucky for 5500 men to assist in the war between the United States and Great Britain. He organized and was Captain of a company raised in Shelby County which joined Colonel John Allen's regiment of Kentucky troops. He was killed at the battle of the River Raisin, January 22nd. 1813. Simpson County, Kentucky and Simpsonville, a town on the L& N Railroad between Shelbyville and Louisville which was incorporated in 1816, were named for Captain John Simpson.

John Allen, Was a prominent member of this Lodge in 1800; February 13th. 1804, he demitted from No. 5 and joined No. 4. He was Deputy Grand master in 1807, Grand Master 1808, 1809 and 1810. In 1796 he was one of the Commissioners to have the Shelby County Court House built. He was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1800: was elected to Kentucky State Senate 1810 to 1814, was Colonel of the Kentucky Regiment in the War of 1812, was killed at the battle of River Raisin, January 22nd. 1813.

Wingfield Bullock:- Was an enthusiastic member of this Lodge in 1801, was Master of Solomon's Lodge in 1809, Member of Kentucky Senate 1812 to 1814; Member of Congress 1820 to 1821, died October 13th. 1821.

James M. Bullock:- This gentlemen, as soon as he attained his majority united himself with the Masonic Fraternity, following the example of his father, who lived and died a member of the order. He soon became distinguished among the craft, his merits attracted the attention of the Order and he was elevated to some of the most distinguished trusts, among which were that of Grand Orator in 1832, Grand Senior Warden in 1834, Deputy Grand Master in 1835 and held many offices in Solomon's Lodge, represented Shelby County in the Legislature 1831 to 1836.

William Cardwell: - Grand Treasurer in 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843 and 1844. He held many offices in Solomon's Lodge No.5. Died in 1849. George W Johnson:- Who was afterwards City Judge of Louisville and Judge of the same Circuit was a prominent member of No. 5.

Thomas Todd:- Born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, December 1st. 1820; initiated in Solomon's Lodge No.5, March 11th. 1842, Filled every office in the gift of the Lodge Except Secretary and Treasurer, was elected Master in June 1846; was elected and served fifteen terms since, the last term being in 1905; attended Grand Lodge in 1846 and attended every meeting of Grand Lodge until his death. Was appointed Grand

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Marshal in 1846, was elected Grand Master and served a term as such in 1853, and served on all the various committees of the Grand Lodge.

He was a member of the Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky to represent it at the Centennial Ceremonies that were held at the tomb of George Washington at Mt. Vernon Virginia, December 14th. 1899, and was present at said Ceremony, in which almost all the Grand Lodges of the United States of America and many Grand Lodges of other parts of the world, together with thousands of Brethren, participated. Was a Royal Arch Mason in Shelbyville Royal Arch Chapter #2 in May 1846 and filled all the various offices in the Chapter; was elected High Priest in 1858, and served as such many times, attended Grand Chapter in 1846 and was present at every session until his death; was elected Grand High Priest in 1859 and served the term, was appointed High Priest of the Grand Council in 1858, filled nearly all the offices, and was elected Grand President in 1866, and was re-elected at every meeting up to 1905, and at that meeting was elected for life; was made a Royal and Select Master in a Council at Frankfort, Ky., in 1849, filled many offices in Grand Council and was elected Grand Master 1871 and 1872 was dubbed a Knight Templar in Frankfort, Ky., Commander in 1849 and filled many offices, including Generalissimo. He attended Grand Encampments of United States of America in Lexington in 1853, in Chicago, Ill., 1880 and in Louisville, Ky., 1901. Died April 29th. 1909.

This Lodge has Papers and Record Books from 1801 to present time with the exceptions of two short periods, it has the original copy of the By-laws signed by the members adopted July 1815, and also a copy of the By-laws signed and adopted in December 1823. This Lodge has furnished many of officer to the Grand Lodge, Viz:- G.M. 1814 and 1853, D. G. M. 1808, 1809, 1810, 1812, 1813, 1816, 1835, 1852, G.R.S.W. 1800, 1801, 1802, 1806, 1807, 1815, 1834, 1851, G.R.J.W. 1803, 1806, 1850, Grand Orator, 1816, and 1832. Grand Treasurer 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, and 1844. Grand J.D. 1803.

July 10th. 1900 Solomon's Lodge Celebrated its Centennial Anniversary at Shelby County Fair Grounds, the Commentaries from Louisville, Ky., the children from the Masonic W. & O. Home and many visiting Brethren from all over the State were present.

The Lodge has a membership of 169, is in prosperous condition and steadily growing.

Presented; by Solomon's Lodge No. 5, F. & A.M. By Bro. Eli C. Spicer; 03/10/2005