The last meeting of Hiram Lodge in the new Masonic Hall was held December 8, 1882. For six years had the lodges prospered in the new hall, and nothing had occurred to disturb their peace and harmony, when once more the devastating element deprived them of their Masonic home. On the evening of December 21, 1882, the upper part in which the lodge rooms were situated, were destroyed by fire. Fortunately Hiram Lodge saved its records, although somewhat damaged by water. Its next communication was held January 12, 1883, M. W., Brother Flagler, Grand Master, having granted a dispensation to the lodge who formerly met at the hall corner of Washington and North Division streets, to hold their communications in the hall of the lodge of the Ancient Landmarks, corner of Main and Court streets. The lodge having also been prevented from elective its officers at the time prescribed by the statutes of the Grand Lodge, was authorized to elect and install them on the 12th of January, 1883.

At the date of this publication, the hall having been fully restored and furnished anew, the lodge has resumed its communications in its former quarters. The following is a list of the Masters who have presided over Hiram Lodge up to the present time, the numbers opposite their respective names indicating the years during which each occupied the chair:

Brothers H. B. Meyers, 1845 and '46; Nelson Randall, 1847 and '48; Charles S. Pierce, 1849; Benjamin H. Austin, 1850, '51 and '52; James H. Barton, 1853, '54, '56, '57, '60 and '61; G. A. Scroggs, 1855; J. K. Tyler, 1858; Riley Hayford, 1859; Andrew S. Mason, 1862, '65 and '68; Hawley Klein, 1864, '65 and '82; Henry Waters, 1866; Chillion M. Farrar, 1867; Henry Smith, 1869, '70 and '73; William F. Rogers, 1871 and '81; Theodore C. Knight, 1872; Solomon Taylor, 1874; George L. Remington, 1875 and '76; John Masters, Jr., 1877 and '78; Charles H. Rathbun, 1879; Burrall Spencer, Jr., 1880; William J. Donaldson, 1883.

On the 1st of May 1883, the lodge numbered two hundred and seventy-six members.

Concordia Lodge, No. 143.—The new life infused into Freemasonry in Buffalo by the success of Hiram Lodge, awakened a desire among the brethren speaking the German tongue to establish a German Lodge in the city. For this purpose a number of them applied to the Grand Master of the State for a dispensation which was granted. Upon the receipt of it the petitioners assembled in the lodge room, corner of Washington and Exchange streets, on the 3d of October, for the purpose of organizing Concordia Lodge, that being the name by which the lodge was to be known.

The brethren authorized by the dispensation to act as officers were, James Wenz, Master; Frederick Ehrman, S. W.; and Jacob Weil, J. W. August Miller was appointed secretary. Of the petitioners the follow.
ing were present on the occasion:—Brothers Altwicker, Eschenbach, Black, and a number of visitors from Hiram Lodge, No. 105. The first candidate initiated was Adam Schlagter, October 17, 1848; the second, F. Augustus Georgier, October 31, 1848; Philip Scheu and Henry Weisser, November 21, 1848, and John Greiner, December 5, 1848. Of these brethren, two are still living in Buffalo, F. Augustus Georgier, who is the president of the German Bank, of Buffalo, and John Greiner, one of its most successful merchants, who still continue to take an active part in Masonry.

Under the dispensation Concordia Lodge continued its labors until June, 1849, when at the session of the Grand Lodge at that time, it received its warrant, bearing date June 13, 1849, in which James Wenz is named as Master; Frederick Ehrman, S. W.; and Jacob Weil, J. W. The lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed on the occasion when Buffalo Chapter, No. 71, Hiram Lodge, No. 105, and Concordia Lodge, U. D., celebrated St. John’s day, on the 25th of June, 1849, in the First Universalist Church, on Washington street.

The records of the lodge contain the following on the subject of its installation:

“The brethren assembled in the lodge room at 11 o’clock A. M., together with the members of Buffalo Chapter, Hiram Lodge, and a number of visiting brethren from abroad. A procession being formed, it proceeded to the First Universalist Church on Washington street. After prayer the Rev. Brother Dophilus Skinner, from Utica, delivered an address. Brother O. H. Dibble, having received authority for that purpose, from the Grand Master, duly constituted Concordia Lodge and installed its officers. At the close of the solemnities, the procession was re-formed and returned to the lodge room.”

The first regular meeting of the lodge under its warrant, took place July 3, 1849. On the 18th of December, of the same year, the following officers were elected: James Wenz, M.; Frederick Ehrman, S. W.; J. G. Ferdinand Muller, J. W.; F. Augustus Georgier, Secretary; F. Altwicker, Treasurer; J. Black, S. D.; J. A. Weimer, J. D.; Jacob Weil and Philip Scheu, Masters of Ceremonies; John Greiner and Herman Wende, Stewards; C. F. W. Ebenau, Orator.

On the 29th of August, 1852, the lodge took part in laying the cornerstone of the Protestant Evangelical Church at Black Rock, and subsequently in all public proceedings in which the fraternity of the city participated.

At the communication of the lodge May 9, 1853, the following members applied for dimits for the purpose of forming the Second German Lodge in Buffalo, viz.: Brothers Greiner, Devening, Koenig, Scherf, Weber, Keller, C. Lange, Drubisch and Birkenstock.

The lodge joined the Masonic Board of Relief of Buffalo in 1858, and aside of that has always contributed liberally to the relief of the needy.
When in December, 1861, Hiram and Erie Lodges, Buffalo Chapter and Lake Erie Commandery determined to abandon the premises occupied by them on the northwest corner of Washington and Exchange streets, and move to the hall prepared for them in the building on the southwest corner of Main and Swan streets, Concordia Lodge joined in the movement.

In 1868, the lodge erected a monument over the grave of Philip Scheu, one of its members, and on the 24th of June, 1869, it assisted Modestia Lodge in unveiling the monument erected by it over the grave of its Master, who lost his life by a railroad accident near Erie, Pennsylvania. In 1869 the following members dimitted from the lodge for the purpose of establishing Harmonie Lodge, it being the third German Lodge in Buffalo:—Brothers S. C. Kiene, Henry Breitweiser, Frederick Traenkel, Henry Keller and Joseph Timmerman.

In the year 1872, one of those pleasant incidents occurred which ought not to go unrecorded. Brother G. Scheffel who for over nineteen years had faithfully served the lodge in the capacity of chaplain, was to celebrate his golden wedding on the 13th of October. The members, therefore, as an evidence of the high esteem in which they held the brother, determined to celebrate the event. A committee consisting of Past Masters Joseph L. Haberstro, George Brost, William Schmidt and Frederick Held were appointed, who were to act with the Master of the Lodge, Brother William C. Zimmerman, to make the necessary arrangements. It was determined to celebrate the event on the anniversary of the wedding day, October 13, by a banquet. Two hundred and twenty-five members of the lodge, and invited brethren from other lodges, with their families participated in the celebration, during which Brother Scheffel was presented with a purse of $200 in gold. He died in 1880, at the ripe old age of 83.

Concordia Lodge celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on the 24th of June, 1874. The seven members who in 1849, had applied for a warrant, had, during the quarter of a century, increased to two hundred.

When the Lodges and other Masonic bodies determined in 1876, to leave the hall in which their meetings were held, Concordia Lodge also joined in the movement. It has since that time continued to hold its meetings in the new hall (Miller & Greiner block), on the northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets, up to December 21, 1882, when the upper part of the building containing the hall was almost entirely destroyed by fire. It was fortunate enough to save its records from destruction.

On the 23d of December, 1882, the Grand Master of the State, M. W., Brother Flagler, granted permission to the lodge to meet hereafter in the hall of the Lodge of the Ancient Landmarks, over the Erie County Savings Bank on the southwest corner of Main and Court streets. The
lodge has, in October, 1883, returned to its former quarters, Miller & Greiner block, the building having been fully restored and refurnished.

Concordia Lodge has pursued the even tenor of its way, being neither elated by favorable, nor depressed by adverse circumstances. The lodge may be considered the mother lodge of German Masonry in Buffalo, and has reason to feel proud of its offspring. On the 1st of May, 1883, the lodge numbered two hundred and thirteen members. The following brethren were masters of the lodge for the respective years opposite to their names, viz.: James Wenz, 1848, '49, '50 and '51; J. P. Klein, 1852, '53, '54 and '56; Jacob Weil, 1855; Joseph L. Haberstro, 1857, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62, '64, '66, '77 and '78; Charles H. Rauert, 1865; S. C. Kiene, 1867 and '68; George Brost, 1869 and '70; William C. Zimmerman, 1871 and '72; Frederick Held, 1873 and '74; John F. Haberstro, 1875 and '76; Frank Sipp, 1879 and '80; Nicholas Moersfelder, 1881 and '82; Charles F. Bishop, 1883.

Erie Lodge No. 161.—The greatest loss that can befall a lodge is the destruction of its records, for with it the authenticity and details of its previous history disappear to a great extent. Whatever information may be subsequently gathered by the slow and uncertain process of extraction from the recollection of old members and from other sources, lacks after all the authenticity of the original records. That disaster has overtaken Erie Lodge of Buffalo. No records of the lodge, except the list of members, have been saved from the calamitous fire which destroyed the lodge rooms in the building in the northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets, on the evening of December 21, 1882. Sufficient time has scarcely elapsed to collect and put in presentable shape the material necessary for even the bare outline of the history of the lodge, which has existed for a third of a century, and this must be the excuse for the paucity of the matter furnished in the present sketch.

It was on the 21st of December, 1849, that Hiram Lodge adopted a resolution recommending the petition of thirty-two good and true Masons to the favorable consideration of the Grand Master, who thereupon granted his dispensation for the formation of Erie Lodge. The date of the petition we have been unable to ascertain. The following are the names of the brethren who signed the petition: Orange H. Dibble, W. L. G. Smith, William Williams, Erastus Wallis, Nelson Randall, Nehemiah Case, James McCredie, George W. Allen, Richard H. Weller, Harvey M. Mixer, Frederick J. Butler, Carlos Cobb, Samuel D. Flagg, Philip Dorshemer, Horatio Warren, Henry W. Rogers, Cyrus P. Lee, Cyrenius C. Bristol, Horatio Gates, Eli Williamson, John Douglass, George W. Clinton, Solomon Drullard, Benjamin Welch, Jr., Silas M. Allen, Gordon Bailey, James L. Reynolds, John Hollister, John M. Hughes, Lyman Brown, Benjamin Caryl and John Flehart. Twenty-five of these brothers have gone to their long rest. The seven surviving brethren are Nehemiah Case, James McCredie, Frederick J. Butler,
Cyrus P. Lee, Cyrenius C. Bristol, Eli Williamson and George W. Clinton. Of these Nehemiah Case and James McCredie continue their membership in the lodge, the latter having been uninterruptedly elected to some office from the time of its formation; certainly a rare occurrence and undoubted evidence of the value of the member.

The first three candidates initiated by the lodge were James H. Lee, January 28, 1850, Samuel C. Greene, February 4, 1850, and F. A. Alberger, March 18, 1850.

At the session of the Grand Lodge in June, 1850, the lodge obtained a warrant and was registered as Erie Lodge No. 161. The date of the warrant is June, 1850, and the brethren named therein as the first officers of the lodge are Nelson Randall, M., Carlos Cobb, S. W., and W. L. G. Smith, J. W. The lodge held its communications in the same rooms in which Hiram Lodge, Concordia Lodge and Buffalo Chapter met. These bodies have since their respective organization, closely adhered to each other and have always occupied the same premises. Erie Lodge has invariably participated in all public demonstrations. On the 26th of August, 1852, it joined with Hiram and Concordia Lodges in laying the corner-stone of the German Evangelical Church at Lower Black Rock. It was Erie Lodge that, at its meeting of March 4, 1853, appointed a committee to take in consideration the propriety and feasibility of erecting a Masonic temple in the city of Buffalo.

In 1855 the lodge approved the “Articles of Association of the Masonic Board of Relief of the city of Buffalo,” which it subsequently zealously supported.

On the 5th of May, 1858, the lodge participated in the laying of the corner-stone of the State Arsenal, and in 1861, in company with the masonic bodies that had heretofore met at the corner of Washington and Exchange streets, left its masonic home and moved to the lodge rooms on the southwest corner of Main and Swan streets.

On the 2d of August, 1864, the lodge participated in the laying of the corner-stone of the First Universalist Church and when, on the 25th of January, 1865, the American Hotel, together with the adjacent buildings in which a number of masonic bodies met, were destroyed by fire, it was Erie Lodge that surrendered in a fraternal spirit two nights of their regular monthly communications for the accommodation of the lodges that had become homeless.

The calamity which had fallen upon the fraternity by this conflagration, once more reminded the Masons of Buffalo of the necessity of possessing their own property and as, on a previous occasion, Erie Lodge again became an ardent supporter of the proposition and subscribed a liberal sum for that purpose.

The lodge participated in the laying of the memorial stone in Forest Lawn cemetery, September 25, 1856; in the laying of the corner-stone of the State Normal School at Fredonia, August 8, 1867; in that of the
State Normal School in Buffalo, April 15, 1869; in that of the Fireman's monument in Forest Lawn Cemetery, July 23, 1869; of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church July 13, 1871; of the City and County Hall June 24, 1872; of the asylum for the insane September 18, 1872; of the soldiers' monument in Forest Lawn Cemetery October 21, 1880; and of the soldiers' and sailors' monument in LaFayette Square, July 4, 1882.

In December, 1875, the lodge joined the Masonic Association formed for the purpose of leasing the lodge rooms on the northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets and moved to the new locality in May, 1876. Here it suffered with the rest of the Masonic bodies by the conflagration of December 21, 1882.

Erie Lodge has liberally contributed to the hall and asylum fund of the Grand Lodge, as well as to all benevolent and charitable purposes at home.

Of the eminent Masons upon whom the Grand Lodge of the State and other Grand bodies have conferred their highest honors, Erie Lodge has furnished a larger number than any other lodge in this district, and it may be safe to say even in the State.

Two members have attained to the exalted dignity of Grand Master of the State—Brothers Nelson Randall and Christopher G. Fox. The former was one of the charter members of the lodge, and the latter was initiated in Erie Lodge, although not a member of it at the time he filled the office of Grand Master. Brother James McCredie occupied the position of Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council of the State. Brother LeRoy Farnham that of Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State; and Brother David F. Day that of Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State. Brother Ellicott Evans was the first District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-fifth Masonic District, and for several years Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge. Brother William Gould was one of the Grand Stewards of the Grand Lodge in 1857.

The lodge is again domiciled in its former quarters, northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets. The lodge numbered two hundred and fifty-four members May 1, 1883. The following brothers have occupied the station of Master of the lodge for the periods set opposite their respective names: Brothers Nelson Randall, 1850 and '51; Cyrus P. Lee, 1852 and '53; LeRoy Farnham, 1854; Ellicott Evans, 1855; William Gould, 1856, '57, '58, '60, '61 and '62; James McCredie, 1859; William F. Best, 1863, '64 and '67; David F. Day, 1865; John Briggs, 1866 and '76; S. M. Ratcliffe, 1868, '71, '72, '81 and '83; W. L. G. Smith, 1869; William H. Dee, 1870; Robert Denton, 1873 and '74; Benjamin A. Provoost, 1875; Edward H. Paige, 1877; William Christian, 1878 and '79; Thomas A. Laird, 1880 and '82.

Washington Lodge No. 240.—It was in the fall of 1851 that a number of Masons, some of them being at the time members of Hiram and Erie
Lodges, determined to apply for a dispensation to open a new lodge in the city of Buffalo. One of the reasons for this movement was that the city was beginning to assume extensive proportions and some of the brethren were living at too great a distance from the Masonic Hall, corner of Washington and Exchange streets, to make their attendance at the lodge meetings possible or convenient, street railroads being unknown in those days. It was at the last of the preliminary meetings at which the feasibility of establishing a new lodge was discussed, that the following brethren signed a petition to the Grand Lodge for a dispensation: L. Brown, D. H. Wiswell, Harlow Palmer, H. H. Reynolds, M. Pinner, Horatio Warren, Ashley Ball, Charles D. Delaney, Miles Jones, J. M. Punderson, A. S. Schwartz, Eli Williamson, O. B. Evans, Gordon Bailey and George W. Clinton. Of the fifteen brethren, three are still continuing their membership in the lodge, five withdrew, having left the city, and seven have died. The petition for a dispensation received the endorsement of both Hiram and Erie Lodges.

The first regular communication of the lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, corner of Washington and Exchange streets, on the 28th of October, 1851, the following officers occupying their respective stations and places: Lyman Brown, M.; Harlow Palmer, S. W.; J. M. Punderson, J. W.; H. H. Reynolds, secretary; Miles Jones, treasurer; M. Pinner, S. D.; Gordon Bailey, J. D.; Charles D. Delaney and D. H. Wiswell, stewards; and A. S. Schwartz, M. C.

The first petitions for initiation were received from F. P. Stevens and William Sutton. Of these the former never entered the lodge. At this meeting a resolution was unanimously adopted that it was the intention of the members to obtain a hall in the upper part of the city for the use of the lodge.

The first initiation occurred at the communication of the lodge, November 25, 1851, William A. Sutton and Horatio Seymour being the candidates.

The lodge continued its labors under dispensation until December when a warrant was granted to it at the quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge, December 11th, 1851, the names of the first three lodge officers inserted therein being Lyman Brown, M.; Harlow Palmer, S. W., and James M. Punderson, J. W. The first regular communication under the warrant occurred on the 1st of January, 1852, and they continued to be held at the corner of Washington and Exchange streets until June of that year. The hall over the Buffalo Savings Bank, then located on the premises now known as No. 420 Main street, was secured by the lodge for its future meetings, that being the intention of its members. The first meeting in its new location occurred on the 24th of June, 1852.

A severe infliction befall the lodge on the 31st of August, 1852, by the death of the Senior Warden, Brother Harlow Palmer, who was an
earnest and zealous Mason and one of the principal supporters of the young lodge. His memory is still cherished by the few surviving old members from whose recollection time has failed to efface the sterling qualities of the man and Mason. His brother, Everard, was initiated into Masonry in Washington Lodge August 17, 1852, was elected Junior Warden of the lodge at the election of officers December 21st, 1852; he also became a steadfast and liberal supporter of the lodge.

The hall heretofore occupied over the Buffalo Savings Bank was found to be inadequate for the use of the lodge. The members, therefore, determined to rent the more spacious hall in the adjoining buildings, Nos. 326 and 328 Main street (now known as 416 and 418 Main street). It was suitably arranged, fitted and prepared for the use of the lodge, and its first communication was held therein on the 26th of April, 1863. The name of the lodge was also given to the hall and it was known thereafter as Washington Masonic Hall. Modestia Lodge No. 340, Queen City No. 358, Ancient Landmarks, No. 441, Keystone Chapter No. 163 R. A. M., and Keystone Council, No. 20, R. & S. M., subsequently held their communications in the same hall.

In the year 1855, Washington Lodge united with Hiram, Erie, Queen City and Ancient Landmark Lodges to establish a Board of Relief for the city of Buffalo, for the purpose of preventing the bestowal of charity indiscriminately; it has tended to relieve the worthy more effectually, while, at the same time, it protects the lodges against imposition by the searching investigation of the board. Subsequently all the lodges in the city became members of the board, of which particulars will be given in another part of this compilation.

A petition to the Grand Lodge for a dispensation to form a new lodge, to be known as Temple Lodge, was presented to Washington Lodge for endorsement, at its communication of January 14, 1858, and received its approbation. The Grand Master of the State, M. W. Brother John L. Lewis, declined to grant the dispensation, for the reason that a lodge by that name was already existing in this State. The name of the proposed new lodge was thereupon changed to that of "Ancient Landmarks Lodge," when it received the sanction of the Grand Master.

Hiram Lodge being the oldest lodge in the city, and having been called upon by the proper civil authorities to lay the corner-stone of the new State arsenal, invited Washington Lodge, April 15, 1858, to participate in the ceremonies. The invitation was accepted. The question of a change in the representation in the Grand Lodge was brought before the lodge March 20, 1862, and at its communication of May 22, it was resolved that in the opinion of Washington Lodge the Grand Lodge of the State should remain as at present constituted, but that it seemed desirable that it should be removed from the city of New York to some city in the central part of the State. The lodge received and accepted
the invitation of Concordia and Modestia Lodges to celebrate St. John's day at Moffat's Grove on the 26th of June, 1862, at 7:30 P. M. A communication of the lodge was called on the 2d of August, 1864, for the purpose of attending the M. W. Grand Lodge and be present at the laying of the corner-stone of the First Universalist Church, on Main street in this city.

The disastrous fire which destroyed the American Hotel on the evening of Wednesday, January 25, 1865, also swept away the Washington Masonic Hall, it being contiguous thereto. The lodge lost its cherished home, but was fortunate in saving its books, records and jewels, together with a portion of the furniture, for which it is indebted to the energetic action of Brothers Samuel O. Bigelow and William Fleming, assisted by a number of its own members and those of other lodges. At the meeting of the lodge February 2, 1865, which was held in Masonic Hall, corner of Main and Swan streets, a resolution was adopted thanking Erie Lodge No. 161, for its fraternal kindness in surrendering the use of its lodge room for the first and third Thursday evenings of each month, until Washington Lodge would be enabled to provide itself with a room in place of the one destroyed by fire. On the 4th of February, 1865, M. W. Brother Clinton F. Paige, Grand Master, authorized Washington Lodge to meet at the hall corner of Main and Swan streets. Hugh de Payens Commandery having offered to rent its hall over Nos. 326 and 328 Main street—(416 and 418 new numbers) to Washington Lodge, the latter accepted the proposition and held its first communication in said hall December 28, 1865. At this meeting a resolution was adopted thanking all the lodges meeting at the Masonic Hall, corner of Main and Swan streets, but more particularly Erie Lodge, who, in a fraternal spirit had given up two Thursdays in each month, to enable Washington Lodge to hold its communications.

September 6, 1866, an invitation was extended to the lodge to join with the other lodges of the city in laying a memorial stone on the occasion of the consecration of the grounds of Forest Lawn Cemetery Association, which was accepted. July 25, 1867, a committee was appointed by the lodge to confer with like committees from the rest of the city lodges, with reference to laying the corner-stone of the State Normal School, at Fredonia, for which an invitation had been received. The invitation was accepted and the lodges proceeded to Fredonia and performed the ceremony on the 8th of August.

In response to a call issued by R. W. Brother Christopher G. Fox, at that time S. G. W., of the Grand Lodge, the Masters and Wardens of the several lodges in Buffalo assembled at the hall, corner of Main and Swan streets, on the 8th of April, 1869, to take into consideration the acceptance of the invitation of the building committee to lay the corner-stone of the State Normal School, then in course of erection in this city.
The invitation was accepted. Washington Lodge participated in the ceremony on the 15th of April, 1869. Again on the 17th of June, 1869, Washington Lodge was informed that the Fraternity of the city had received an invitation to lay the corner-stone of the firemen’s monument in Forest Lawn on the 24th of June. On the 22d of July 1869, the lodge came to the determination to change its place of meeting with the new year, to Masonic Hall corner of Main and Swan streets, where it held its first communication on the 13th of January, 1870.

A number of German brethren having determined to form a new lodge in Buffalo, applied to Washington Lodge for an endorsement of their petition to the Grand lodge. The lodge was to work in the German tongue and be called Harmonie Lodge. The recommendation was granted November 11, 1869.

During the summer of 1870 a plan had been discussed for the establishment of a Masonic library for the joint use of the lodges in Buffalo, and on the 25th of August of that year a committee had been appointed by Washington Lodge, for the purpose of meeting committees from the other lodges to carry the plan into execution. To the regret of the Fraternity generally, the idea failed to become a reality.

On the 26th of May, 1870, the lodge contributed the sum of $400 to the Hall and Asylum fund of the Grand Lodge, which was increased on the 12th of December, 1872, by $400 from the funds of the lodge and by $75 from contributions of its members. The destructive conflagration which laid almost the whole city of Chicago in ashes, called for the immediate relief of the sufferers; $200 were transmitted October 22d, 1871, to the Grand Master of the State of Illinois for distribution to the needy.

Washington Lodge had joined the association formed for the purpose of renting and suitably fitting up the new Masonic Hall on the northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets, and removed to it immediately after completion. The first communication of the lodge in these elegant rooms occurred July 13, 1876. In September, 1878, the lodge and its members contributed $142 for the relief of the yellow fever sufferers. On the 22d of September, 1881, the lodge took suitable action on the death of Brother James A. Garfield, President of the United States. On the 14th of December, 1882, the lodge held its last meeting in the hall; on the 21st of the same month it fell a prey to the flames. Fortunately its records were preserved, but unluckily its warrant was destroyed. The Grand Lodge granted a duplicate thereof at its session, in June, 1883. Twice has it now passed through a fiery ordeal; may it be saved from this infliction for all future time.

Washington Lodge found a temporary home in the hall of the Ancient Landmark’s Lodge, and elected its officers at its regular communication, December 28, 1882. It is now again domiciled in its former
quarters at Masonic Hall, corner of Washington and North Division streets, the building having been restored to its former condition and the hall beautifully furnished.

The following are the names of the Masters of Washington Lodge, the figures opposite to the respective names indicating the years during which they presided: Lyman Brown, 1851 and '52; Horatio Warren, 1853; Gordon Bailey, 1834; Everard Palmer, 1855; M. Pinner, 1856, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64; Andrew Houlston, 1857; William Fleming, 1858; Samuel O. Bigelow, 1865; A. E. Williams, 1866; John B. Manning, 1867, '68; Isaac O. Crissy, 1869, '70; C. C. Candee, 1871, '72; William B. Flint, 1873, '74; H. B. McCulloch, 1875, '76; Ralph Johnson, 1877; John C. Graves, 1878, '79; John B. Greene, 1880; Joseph E. Ball, 1881; Charles R. Fitzgerald, 1882, '83.

On the 1st of May, 1883, Washington Lodge had two hundred and twenty-one Master Masons on its rolls.

_Tonawanda Lodge No. 247._—This lodge is located at Tonawanda, Erie county. The date of the dispensation under which the lodge was formed, we have been unable to ascertain. The following brethren signed the petition for a dispensation: Emmanuel Hensler, James C. Bentley, John Shell, E. B. Jacobs, Jacob Kibler, John Sweeney and William Zimmerman. The Grand Lodge granted a warrant to the lodge at its June session, in 1852, and it was registered on the rolls as Tonawanda Lodge No. 247. W. Brother Emmanuel Hensler, was its first Master; Jacob Kibler, Senior Warden; James C. Bentley, Junior Warden.

The following brethren were Masters of the lodge for the respective years opposite to their names: Brothers Emanuel Hensler, 1852; Jesse F. Locke, 1857 and '58; Franklin Warren, 1859, '60; Benjamin F. Betts, 1861, '62, '63 and '67; William Westover, 1864, '65; Clark Ransom, 1866, A. R. White, 1868, '69; G. L. Judd, 1870; Charles D. Kramer, 1871; Calvin P. Clark, 1872, '73; G. F. Williams, 1874, '75; George A. McEwen, 1876, '78; Albert B. Williams, 1877; Augustus H. Crown, 1879; Joshua S. Bliss, 1880, '81; Arlington A. Bellinger, 1882, '83. We have not succeeded in obtaining the names of the brethren who occupied the station of Master during 1853, 1854, 1855 and 1856. On the 1st of May, 1883, the lodge numbered one hundred and twenty-eight members.

_Living Stone Lodge No. 255._—This lodge is located at Colden, Erie county. One of the oldest members of the lodge furnished the names of the petitioners for a dispensation from memory, no record existing from which they could be ascertained. They are as follows: Brothers Sylvanus O. Gould, Alva Dutton, Oliver Dutton, Asa K. Tyler. Abijah Smith, Thomas Buflum, Comfort Knapp, Asa Gould, John Church, John Brooks, Arnold Holt and Nicholas Holt.

At the June session of the Grand Lodge, in 1852, a warrant was obtained which bears date the 9th of that month. The following breth-
ren are named therein as its officers: Brother Sylvanus O. Gould, Master; Oliver Dutton, S.W.; Asa K. Tyler, J.W. The following brethren have occupied the station of Masters of the Lodge for the period opposite to their respective names: Brother S.O. Gould, 1853, ’54 and ’55; R. S. Shelly, 1856, ’57 and ’58; T. Buffum, 1859 and 1863; Ridley Cole, 1860, ’61 and ’62; C. R. Morrow, 1864, ’65, ’66 and ’67; Robert McClure, 1868; G. W. Nichols, 1869 and 1873; Dexter E. Folsom, 1870, ’71 and ’72; Mark Whiting, 1874 and ’75; Harrison Vanderlip, 1876, ’77, ’82 and ’83; Byron A. Churchill, 1878 and 1881; John P. Underhill, 1879; Orvil C. Strong, 1880. Number of members May 1, 1883, sixty-seven.

We have in the preceding pages furnished a memorandum of Livingston Lodge No. 416, which received a warrant June 1, 1825. We gave all the information we could then obtain of that Lodge. Worthy Brother Vanderlip informs us that the former Livingston Lodge succumbed to the anti-Masonic blast, but that many of its members were petitioners for the present “Living Stone” Lodge. There is no doubt that the last named Lodge is the successor of the former. It will be noticed, however, that the spelling of the name of the present Lodge essentially differs from that of the former, and we venture to suggest that the Lodge warranted in 1825, was named after Robert R. Livingston, who was Grand Master in 1785.

Evans Lodge No. 261.*—This Lodge is now located at Angola, Erie county. It received a dispensation from the Grand Master on the 3d of February, 1852, and was then located at Evans Centre, one mile from what is now Angola. The following are the names of the brethren who applied for the dispensation:—John Fairbanks, Whiting Cash, Orin Catlin, Lambert G. Dingman, John F. Gazlay, Horace Goodrich, Ira Joy, David Fish, Noah Sedgwick, Arthur Sprague.

A warrant was granted to the Lodge at the June communication of the Grand Lodge in 1852. The warrant bears date June 15, 1852, and the following brethren are named therein as the officers:—Brother Heman Daniels, Master; John Fairbanks, Senior Warden; Orin Catlin, Junior Warden.

A resolution was adopted by the Lodge October 4, 1855, to remove to Evans Centre Station (now Angola) where it has been located ever since, passing through periods of depression and prosperity. It held its first regular communication at Evans Centre Station October 18, 1855. The Lodge now occupies a large, handsome hall, finely furnished, on the third floor in the Union Block at Angola. It had at one time one hundred and thirty-five members on its rolls, which, by the chartering of new lodges in its neighborhood, has been reduced to about one-half. The last returns

* We are under obligations to Brother Rosella U. Blackney, of Angola, for the information contained in this sketch, excepting, however, the list of Masters who successively presided over the Lodge.
to the Grand Lodge, May 1, 1883, show a membership of eighty-six. The following is a list of brethren who have presided over the Lodge for the years set opposite to their respective names: Brothers Heman Daniels, 1852; John Fairbanks, 1853, '54, '55; Orin Catlin, 1856, '57; Warren K. Russell, 1858; James S. Stray, 1859; Levi Aldrich, 1860; Chauncey Stone, 1861, '62; David Cook, 1863, '64; C. F. Goodman, 1865; C. W. Morse, 1866; Thomas Faulks, 1867, '68; C. W. Beckwith, 1869, '70; Leroy M. Winslow, 1871, '72; James M. Beman, 1873, '74; Nathaniel Smith, 1875; Leroy S. Oatman, 1876; Horatio P. Muffit, 1877, '78; J. Mack Newton, 1879, '80; Justin G. Thompson, 1881, '82; Roselle U. Blackney, 1883.

Parish Lodge, No. 292.—The steady increase in this number of brethren in that part of Buffalo known as Black Rock, and the distance of the halls in which the Fraternity held its meetings, called for the formation of a lodge in that locality. A petition to the Grand Master was, therefore, prepared in February, 1853, asking for a dispensation to form a lodge at Black Rock, to be known as Parish Lodge. The following are the names of the brethren who attached their names to the petition: Jacob Bellinger, Levi Love, Stephen W. Howell, L.P. Dayton, John Rudy, John H. VanBenthusen, Reuben Justin, Alexander McCloud, Hiram R. Lusk and William P. Sheldon. The petition was recommended by Hiram and other lodges of Buffalo, and the Grand Master issued his dispensation March 29, 1853. At the June communication of the Grand Lodge, in 1853, the lodge received its warrant, nominating Brother Stephen W. Howell, Master; L. P. Dayton, Senior Warden; and Jacob Bellinger, Junior Warden.

The lodge held its meetings at Black Rock, in the building corner of Niagara and Breckinridge streets, subsequently on the corner of Niagara and Amherst streets, but in 1874, determined to change its location to Nos. 416 and 418 Main street, where it held its first communication, May 12, 1874. Subsequently it moved to the Masonic Hall, on the northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets, where it met for the first time, May 1, 1877. On the 1st of May, 1883, the lodge numbered one hundred and nineteen members. The following brethren were Masters of the lodge for the years opposite to their respective names: Brother Stephen W. Howell, 1853, '54; L. P. Dayton, 1855 and '57; D. W. Davis, 1856, '61; J. G. Woelfley, 1858; H. P. Clinton, 1859, '60; George Talbot, 1862; M. A. Hulbur, 1863, '64; Thomas Lotrop, 1865, '66, '67, '68; M. R. Hubbard, 1869, '70; William Vosburgh, 1871, '72; Lewis A. Mattice, 1873, '74, '79, '80, '83; George J. White, 1875, '76; Thomas H. Clough, 1877, '78; Isaac Morris, 1881, '82; George L. Kingston, 1884.

Modesty Lodge No. 340.—A number of brethren, a majority of them heretofore members of Concordia Lodge No. 143, determined to form
the second German lodge in Buffalo. Various reasons were assigned for
this movement, among which may be mentioned a desire for a more con-
venient location for a lodge room, and the rapid increase of the body
from which the brethren withdrew.

The following are the names of the petitioners who applied for a
dispensation to organize the new lodge: Brothers James Wenz, John
Greiner, Carl F. Lange, C. Reithart, Daniel Devening, Christian Lang,
H. Keller, John G. Scherf, Adolf Birkenstock, B. H. King, J. Jacob
Weber and D. Drobish. The petitioners obtained a dispensation in May,
1854, and the first meeting of the lodge was held on the 18th of the
same month at the house of Brother C. Reithart, on Michigan street,
W. Brother James Wenz, Master, and Carl F. Lange, Secretary. The
communications of the lodge continued to be held at Brother Reithart's
house, until June 15th, when the lodge moved to the Masonic Hall, on
the corner of Washington and Exchange streets. A warrant having been
issued at the June session of the Grand Lodge, to Modestia Lodge No.
340, the following brethren were installed its officers on the day pre-
viously mentioned: Brother James Wenz, Master; Daniel Devening,
Senior Warden; John Greiner, Junior, Warden. The first initiations
occurred June 17, 1854, when the following candidates received the first
degree in Masonry: F. W. Jacobs, Theodore Stover, C. Neidhart, G.
Schulz and Solomon Schau.

Modestia Lodge continued to hold its communications at the Masonic
Hall, corner of Washington and Exchange streets, until January 9, 1855,
when it changed its location to Washington Masonic Hall, on Main street.
The ardent love of Masonry on the part of its members, their unanimity
of purpose and intelligence, together with the untiring zeal and activity
of the brethren who were at the head, assured the success of the lodge
from the first, and as long as its members continue to recognize and prac-
tice the virtues of brotherly love and charity inculcated by the Masonic
institution, the lodge will continue to occupy the high position it has
heretofore enjoyed in the Masonic world.

The lodge, when a warrant was issued to it, received with it the
privilege of keeping its minutes and working in the German language.
When, therefore, the District Deputy Grand Master required the lodge
to keep its minutes in English, a vigorous protest was entered against
this proposed innovation of its rights; an appeal was taken to the Grand
Lodge in 1857, who decided in favor of the lodge. An effort was made
in 1861, by some brethren to effect a union between the two German
Lodges of Buffalo, to which, however, Modestia Lodge declined to give
its assent.

The disastrous conflagration of the American Hotel and the Masonic
Halls contiguous thereto, in January, 1865, forced Modestia Lodge to
take refuge in the Masonic Hall, corner of Main and Swan streets. On
the 18th of February of the same year, a terrible blow was inflicted upon
the lodge by the violent death of its lamented Master, Brother Gottfried
Schultz, who lost his life by a railroad collision near Warren, Pa. The
remains were brought to Buffalo and buried by the lodge in Forest Lawn
Cemetery, in presence of a large concourse of the fraternity and friends
of the deceased. This is the first record we find of a Master of a lodge
in this city dying during the term of his office. The lodge subsequently
erected a handsome monument over the remains of its former Master,
which was unveiled June 24, 1869.

The block of buildings destroyed by fire in 1865, before alluded to,
having been rebuilt, Modestia Lodge returned to its former location, No.
328 (old number) Main street, where it held its first meeting January
2, 1866.

On the 24th of June, 1879, the lodge celebrated its quarter-centennial
existence by the gathering of its members and their families and a num-
ber of invited guests from other lodges, in St. James Hall. A festival
lodge was opened and a number of addresses were delivered on the
occasion, succeeded by a grand banquet and closed by a ball. The num-
ber of persons present was over four hundred.

The lodge has participated in all public demonstrations, assisted in
the laying of corner-stones of public edifices, etc. It has ever been ready
to extend its helping hand to the needy and is among the foremost to
aid the distressed. Among its members originated the plan of providing
for the widows and orphans of deceased brethren through the German
Masonic Benevolent Association, of which mention is made in another
portion of this compilation. The lodge has not neglected to improve the
minds of its members, by providing suitable lectures in its hall and by
forming the nucleus for a Masonic library, which, there is reason to
hope, will in time assume larger proportions, as the necessary means for
that purpose can be procured. But while making these efforts to furnish
proper Masonic instruction for its members, it has not forgotten to culti-
vate those social qualities which aid in cementing the ties of brotherly
love, by informal meetings after the close of lodge labors. It has annually
celebrated St. John's day by excursions to some pleasant spot and on
these occasions the families of its members have been participants in the
enjoyments of the day. The annual election of the officers of the lodge
in December, has been invariably signalized by suitable donations to such
widows and families of deceased members who stood in need thereof.
The lodge is prospering and had one hundred and forty-five members on
its rolls May 1, 1883. The following brethren have been Masters of the
lodge for the time opposite their respective names: Brothers James
Wenz, 1854, '55; John Greiner, 1836, '57, '58, '60, '67, '70, '71, '77; F.
Rickert, 1859, '66; Bernhard H. King, 1861; Richard Flach, 1862, '63;
Gottfried Schultz, 1864, '65; George A. Reinhard, 1868, '69; Henry
Sauerwein, 1872, '73, '78, '79; Frank L. Link, 1874, '75; H. F. Holtz, 1876; Frederick Wesch, 1880, '81; Philip Weber, 1882, '83.

Williamsville Lodge No. 344.—This Lodge was formerly located at Williamsville, Erie county. Its warrant was dated July 10, 1854, and the brethren named as officers therein were Brother Oliver W. Spellman, Master; Levi J. Ham, S. W., and John Frick, J. W. After an unsuccessful struggle for existence it finally succumbed to adverse circumstances and returned its warrant to the Grand Lodge in 1867. Among the papers surrendered was found the old charter of Amherst Lodge No. 429, of which mention has heretofore been made.

Springville Lodge No. 351.—This Lodge, located at Springville, Erie county, received its warrant at the June session of the Grand Lodge in 1855. The following brethren were Masters of the Lodge for the time specified:—Brothers Alvah Dutton, 1856; Joel Cobleigh, 1858, '60, '61, '64, '67; Pliny Smith, 1859; Benjamin F. Fay, 1862; Almon W. Stanbro, 1865, '66, '69; George G. Stanbro, 1868, '72, '75; Harlan P. Spaulding, 1870; Bertrand Chafee, 1873, '74; Frank P. Spaulding, 1876; Henry F. Norris, 1877, '78; James N. Richmond, 1879, '80; Avery D. Jones, 1881, '82; Alonzo E. Hadley, 1883. The names of the brethren who filled the office of Master for 1857, 1863 and 1871 we were unable to obtain. The Lodge had eighty-two members on its register May 1, 1883.

Queen City Lodge No. 358.—On the 5th of December, 1854, a number of brethren had assembled at the residence of Brother Cyrus P. Lee, on Washington street in Buffalo, for the purpose of consulting the expediency of forming a new lodge. The names of those present were Brothers Cyrus P. Lee, George Drillard, C. C. Wyckoff, Parker Morse, H. S. Dodge, Charles Leonard, Wells Brooks and W. Marsh Kasson. A full discussion of the project resulted in the determination to present a petition to the Grand Master for a dispensation. The following sixteen brethren appended their names to the petition:—Parker Morse, Henry S. Dodge, James H. Lee, W. Marsh Kasson, Wells Brooks, O. H. P. Champlin, William H. Drew, Cyrus P. Lee, George P. Stevenson, George Drillard, Cornelius C. Wyckoff, Charles J. Leonard, William H. Andrews, Isaac Holloway, Christopher G. Fox and John B. Cooke. The petition submitted the names of Cyrus P. Lee as Master; W. Marsh Kasson as S. W., and Wells Brooks as J. W., which received the approbation of the Grand Master.

Upon the receipt of the dispensation the members assembled in Washington Masonic Hall December 10, 1854, W. Brother Cyrus P. Lee, Master, in the chair. At this first communication it was resolved that the following brethren be received into the lodge upon the same terms as were the original petitioners:—Brother B. Toles, C. B. Morse, D. Wall, H. Cameron, William Hersee, J. R. Blodget, and George C. Rexford. A number of petitions for initiation were presented at the same com-