munication. The first candidate initiated was I. W. Whitney, January 1st, 1855, who was followed by C. N. Willey, January 5. Of the brethren who had signed the petition, twelve had been initiated into Masonry in Erie Lodge No. 161, Buffalo; two in Hiram Lodge No. 105, Buffalo; one in Lockport Lodge No. 73, Lockport, N. Y., and one in St. Paul's Lodge No. 134, Auburn, N. Y. Of the brethren who had been received into the Lodge by resolution, six had received their degrees in Erie Lodge No. 161, and one in Hiram Lodge No. 105. Queen City Lodge may, therefore, justly be termed an offspring of Erie Lodge.

During the five months that the Lodge worked under the dispensation, it had initiated into masonry twenty-five; affiliated eight, and elected one an honorary member; being in all, regular members, thirty-three; original petitioners, sixteen; admitted by resolution, seven; total, fifty-six—an evidence of the zeal and energy on the part of the members of the young Lodge.

At the annual session of the Grand Lodge in June, 1855, the lodge obtained its warrant and was registered as Queen City Lodge No. 358. On the 16th of June, 1855, M. W. Brother Nelson Randall, P. G. M., constituted the lodge and installed the following brethren as its officers: Brother C. P. Lee, M.; W. Marsh Kasson, S. W.; Wells Brooks, J. W.; George Drullard, Treas.; C. N. Willey, Sec'y.; O. H. P. Champlin, S. D.; William Hersee, J. D.; S. W. Lee and B. Toles, S.

The necessity of forming the nucleus of a Masonic library presented itself to the members of the lodge at an early day. In March, 1856, the lodge adopted a resolution to carry the idea practically into execution and since which appropriations were made for that purpose from time to time as far as its means would permit. Of late, however, the lodge perceiving that a desirable and suitable increase of the library was not within its present means, has by a resolution adopted September 1, 1882, transferred the collection thus far made to the care of the board of trustees of the Masonic Hall Association. An opportunity now presents itself to the lodges of Buffalo generally to increase the same by contributions and make it the common stock of and accessible to the members of the fraternity.

A strict adherent to the constitution and to a rigid execution of the law, Queen City Lodge has ever been opposed to all compromises for expediency's sake. And for that reason it adopted resolutions May 5, 1857, expressive of its views in regard to the adjustment of the Masonic differences existing in this State, with an organization of which Mordecai Myers was the head. The lodge declared itself opposed to an adjustment on the basis proposed and instructed its representative to vote in accordance therewith at the session of the Grand Lodge in June of that year.

During the year 1857 the lodges of Buffalo were constantly called upon to relieve sojourners. It became evident that in justice to the ap-
plicants, as well as to the lodges themselves, it was necessary to adopt a systematic plan. It was, therefore, determined that a Masonic Relief Fund should be established, and on the 16th of November, 1857, Queen City Lodge appointed a committee to co-operate with like committees from other lodges, to mature some plan and submit it to the different bodies for consideration. The result was, that Washington Lodge No. 240, Modestia No. 340 and Queen City No. 358, established a fund for the purpose of relieving traveling brethren in need of assistance. This was the first attempt made in Buffalo for a Masonic Relief Association.

At the communication of April 26, 1858, the lodge received and accepted an invitation to participate in the laying of the corner-stone of the new State Arsenal, on Batavia street (now Broadway.)

Although the Masonic Relief Association had to some extent proved to be an improvement on the former mode of granting assistance, it was, nevertheless, evident that it was not as perfect in its operations as it was capable of being made. The co-operation of all the lodges in the city was indispensable. On the 12th of July, 1858, Queen City received a communication from Washington Lodge, that a committee had been appointed by it to confer with like committees from the other lodges in the city, concerning the establishment of a General Relief Association. Queen City approved the proposition and appointed a committee upon whose report the lodge became a member of the "Masonic Board of Relief."

The last meeting held by Queen City Lodge in Washington Masonic Hall, was May 2, 1860, it having determined to change its location to Freemason's Hall, (corner of Main and Court streets.) It held its first regular communications therein, May 14, 1860.

An incident illustrating that even war is incapable of obliterating the feeling of brotherhood which unites Masons in indissoluble bonds, was brought to light at the communication of the lodge February 15, 1864. Brother P. E. Dye presented to the lodge two jewels belonging to Davie Lodge No. 39, Beaufort, N. C., which he had captured from a negro in the act of stealing them from the lodge room in Beaufort; he requested that they might be preserved until the return of peace or until some opportunity should enable the Master to place them again in possession of Davie Lodge.

A resolution was adopted by the lodge December 19, 1864, contributing the sum of $200 for the purpose of aiding in the erection of a Masonic Hall in the city of New York, and establishing an asylum for the widows and orphans of Masons. The amount was to be raised by an assessment of three dollars on each member of the lodge.

The disastrous fire which laid the American Hotel in ashes January 25, 1865, had also swept away the balance of the block of buildings up to the corner of Main and Court streets. Both Washington and Masonic
Hall (No. 326 and 328 Main street, old number) as well as Freemason's Hall, located in the corner building, were burned to the ground. The officers of the lodges* which had become homeless by this calamity, met for consultation at Masonic Hall, corner of Main and Swan streets, when an arrangement was entered into with the trustees of that hall for the accommodation of the various bodies; Hiram Lodge No. 105, Concordia No. 143, Erie No. 161, DeMolay No. 498 and Buffalo Council No. 17, fraternally relinquished their alternate nights of meeting. At the same meeting a committee of one from each of the bodies represented was appointed for the purpose of conferring in regard to the feasibility of erecting a Masonic Hall for the accommodation of the fraternity of the city generally. Although considerable progress had been made at one time in obtaining subscriptions for carrying the plan into execution, yet the reaction which occurred soon thereafter in the financial affairs of the nation, failed not to produce its baleful effect on the project which has ever since remained a pious wish of the Fraternity.

The first communication of Queen City Lodge in its new location, Masonic Hall corner, of Main and Swan streets, was held February 3, 1865. On the 2d of June, of the same year, the lodge made the additional contribution of $200 to the Hall and Asylum fund of the Grand Lodge.

The building known as 326 and 328 Main street (old number) having been rebuilt and fitted up for Masonic purposes by Hugh De Payens Commandery, Queen City Lodge removed to these new quarters where it held its first stated communication December 18, 1865. The new hall was called Masonic Hall. An invitation extended September, 166, to assist in laying the memorial stone at the consecration of the grounds of the Forest Lawn Cemetery Association, was accepted. The lodge appointed a committee July 15, 1867, to make arrangements to attend the laying of the corner-stone of the State Normal School at Fredonia, August 8.

On Thursday, April 15, 1869, the lodge met at St. James' Hall for the purpose of joining the fraternity in laying the corner-stone of the State Normal School in this city. The lodge likewise participated in laying the corner-stone of the Firemen's monument in Forest Lawn, June 24, 1869.

At the stated meeting of the lodge July 19, 1869, a resolution was offered that the lodge move from 416 and 418 (formerly 326 and 328) Main street, to the hall on the southwest corner of Main and Swan streets, which was adopted at the communication of August 2d, 1869, and the lodge held its first communication therein September 3d of the same year.

Brother Sebastian C. Kienes and associates, desiring to establish a new lodge in Buffalo, to be known as Harmonie Lodge, and to work in

* Washington No. 240, Modestia No. 340, Queen City No. 358 and Ancient Landmarks No. 441.
the German language, asked the lodge at its communication, November 5, 1869, to endorse their petition to the Grand Master for a dispensation, to which the lodge assented.

On the 3d of June, 1870, the lodge again presented $500 to the Hall and Asylum fund of the Grand Lodge, the amount having been subscribed by seventy-nine of its members.

The great fires in Chicago in October, 1871, aroused the sympathies of the Fraternity generally. The lodges of Buffalo collected $882 in aid of the sufferers, of which Queen City Lodge contributed $200. In December, 1872, the lodge subscribed $200 as an additional contribution to the Hall and Asylum fund, to which individual members added $303, and in November, 1873, the lodge contributed $25 to the fund to be raised for the sufferers by yellow fever in Memphis, to which the members added the sum of $120.

An invitation having been extended to the Fraternity in this city to lay the corner-stone of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, the lodge participated therein July 13, 1874.

Queen City Lodge joined the Masonic bodies meeting at the corner of Main and Swan streets, in fitting up the magnificent rooms in the Miller & Greiner Block, and held its first communication in this new location July 7, 1876.

The 25th anniversary of the lodge occurred December 5, 1879, but it was determined that the celebration should take place in June following.

R. W. John C. Graves, D. D., Grand Master, being invited by the proper authorities to lay the corner-stone of the Soldiers’ monument in Forest Lawn Cemetery, on Thursday, October 21, 1886, called upon the lodges of Buffalo to unite for that purpose. Queen City Lodge accepted the invitation.

The lodge rooms corner of Washington and North Division streets having been destroyed by fire on the evening of December 21, 1882, the lodge held its six hundred and sixty-second stated communication on Friday, January 4, 1883, in the lodge room of Ancient Landmarks Lodge, corner of Main and Court streets, having obtained a dispensation for that purpose from M. W. Brother Benjamin Flagler, Grand Master.

Quarterly as well as annual financial and statistical reports on the condition of the lodge are furnished with commendable regularity by the committee appointed for that purpose. Many of the brethren have become life members of the lodge by commutation which adds greatly to its stability. Liberal in its contributions for charitable purposes, the lodge has also never lost sight of the duty it owes to its deceased members by accompanying them to their final resting place and depositing the remains with fraternal care in the silent grave.

The course pursued in appointing a committee on correspondence, whose duty it is to procure the delivery of lectures on Masonic topics,
deserves great praise; the lodge has cause to congratulate itself that M. W. Brother Fox has consented to act as chairman of the committee. The lectures are delivered at stated times, the greater part of them being furnished by the gifted chairman.

The Masonic Hall (Miller & Greiner Block) having been entirely restored and newly furnished, the Lodge has returned to it and held its first meeting therein August 29th, 1883. The membership of the Lodge May 1st, 1883, was two hundred.

The following brethren have occupied the station of Master of the Lodge for the term set opposite to their respective names:—Brothers Cyrus P. Lee, 1855, '56; Wells Brooks, 1857; George C. Rexford, 1858; C. G. Fox, 1859, '60, '61, '62; John A. Lockwood, 1863, '64, '65; P. A. Matteson, 1866; M. H. Tryon, 1867; William C. Bagley, 1868, '69; Louis S. Morgan, 1870, '71; Darwin E. Morgan, 1872, '73; James G. Bently, 1874, '75; William Hengerer, 1876, '77; Walter C. Winship, 1878; John C. Adams, 1879, '80; Goodrich J. Bowen, 1881, '82; Philo W. Dorris, 1883.

Lodge of the Ancient Landmarks No. 441.—Application having been made to the proper officers of the lodge to permit an examination of its records, permission was refused on the ground that “the general public can have no possible interest in the private records of the lodge.” Not the slightest desire existing on our part to disturb this privacy, we limit ourselves to state that the lodge is located in the city of Buffalo; that it received its warrant from the Grand Lodge in June, 1858, and that it numbered one hundred and seventy members on the 1st of May, 1883.

De Molay Lodge No. 498.—This lodge was also among the sufferers from the fire in the Miller & Greiner Block in December, 1882. Although it was fortunate enough to save its records, yet they are in such a damaged state as to be practically useless until placed in a readable condition again, for which purpose they have been placed in the hands of the binder. To Brother John H. Doyle, its present Master, we are under obligations for information contained in the subjoined sketch.

The dispensation from the Grand Master under which the lodge took form is dated March 1st, 1860. The following brethren were the petitioners for the dispensation:—Brothers William F. Rogers, Alexander Sloan, Arthur Hickman, Samuel Gibson, Edward Hartley, William Dixson, Samuel McCutcheon, Jonathan T. Wilbur, Peter C. Stambach, Charles Armstrong, Hezekiah C. Carey, E. R. P. Shurly, Albert Briggs, Byron D. Vilas, P. B. Hitchcock and Edwin D. Loveridge. In the dispensation W. F. Rogers was named Master; J. T. Wilbur S. W., and P. C. Stambach J. W. The first meeting of the lodge occurred March 4th, 1860, at Masonic Hall on Seneca street. The first candidate initiated in the lodge was Philander B. Locke, March 14, 1860, followed by Alexander H. Brown and John Donaldson, March 21st, and David Donaldson, March 28th, 1860.
Upon the surrender of its dispensation the Grand Lodge, at its June session of 1860, issued a warrant to the lodge which received the number 498, on the register of the Grand Lodge. The warrant is dated June 9, 1860, and contains the names of the brethren who were Masters and Wardens of the lodge whilst working under dispensation as its officers. Upon the receipt of the warrant, the six brethren first named as petitioners, withdrew from the lodge. Up to May, 1861, the lodge continued to meet at the hall on Seneca street, when it moved to Masonic Hall, on the corner of Washington and Exchange streets. Here it remained but a short time, for its last meeting in that hall took place July 20, 1861. In August of the same year it moved with the other Masonic bodies to the corner of Main and Swan streets, and thence in June, 1876, to the hall corner of Washington and North Division streets, where it remained until overtaken by the disastrous fire in December, 1882. The hall having been restored the lodge has resumed its meetings at its former quarters.

The following brethren have occupied the station of Master of the lodge for the term opposite their respective names: Brothers Jonathan T. Wilbur, 1860, '61, '62, '63; P. B. Hitchcock, 1864, '65; Edgar W. Denison, 1866, '67; Walter L. Stephens, 1868; William H. Baker, 1869, '70; Guilford W. McCray, 1871, '72; Albert Jones, 1873, '74; Richmond H. Bickford, 1875, '76; Chauncey Crosby, 1877, '78; Albert H. Adams, 1879, '80; John C. Burns, 1881, '82; John H. Doyle, 1883. On the 1st of May, 1883, the lodge had two hundred and seventy-four members on its register.

Zion Lodge No. 514.—This lodge is located at East Hamburg, Erie county. The date of the dispensation under which the lodge was organized is not known; it was probably in the early part of 1861. The following are the names of the brethren who signed the petition for a dispensation: Asa Whittmore, Jonathan Hascall, Stephen V. R. Graves, Amos B. Paxson, Levi Potter, Lansing B. Littlefield, Seth P. Graves, James Johnson, Samuel L. Deuel, Cushing Swift, Obadiah Newton, James Wood, Algeroy LeClear, Orin Lockwood and William Potter.

The Grand Lodge issued its warrant to the lodge at the June session of 1861; it bears date June 20, 1861, and the following brethren are named therein as officers: Brother Asa Whittmore, Master, Jonathan Hascall, Senior Warden, and Stephen V. R. Graves, Junior Warden. The following are the names of the brethren who have been Masters of the lodge for the terms set opposite to their respective names: Brothers Asa Whittmore, 1861; Levi Potter, 1862, '63, '64, '65, '66; S. S. Reed, 1867; Thomas G. Briggs, 1868, '69, '70, '71; Amos C. Webster, 1870, '72, '73, '74, '75; Job Taylor, 1871, '75; Horace G. Stillwell, 1874; George Abbott, 1876, '77; Samuel D. Johnson, 1879, '80. The lodge numbered twenty-two members May 1, 1883.
SECRET SOCIETIES IN ERIE COUNTY.

Akron Lodge, No. 427.—M. W. John J. Crane, Grand Master, issued his dispensation in 1863, sanctioning the formation of a lodge in Akron, Erie county; and at the June session of the Grand Lodge, in the same year, the brethren who had heretofore worked under that dispensation received a warrant. The lodge was therefore registered as Akron Lodge No. 527 on the rolls of the Grand Lodge.

Brother Ely S. Parker, an Indian of the Tonawanda reservation, who was its first Master, was in Chicago at the time of the Masonic Convention, held September 13th and 14th, 1859. The convention met for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of forming a General Grand Lodge of the United States. At the banquet given at the close of the convention, Brother Parker was present, and by invitation, responded to the toast, "The universality of Masonry." His remarks were listened to with close attention and when the Brother spoke with sadness of his disappearing race he left a deep impression on his hearers.

The names of the officers contained in the warrant are: Ely S. Parker, Master; W. N. Hoag, Senior Warden, and Stephen G. Hill, Junior Warden. The following are the names of brethren who have occupied the station of Master of the lodge for the term opposite to their respective names: Brothers Ely S. Parker, 1863; W. N. Hoag, 1864, '65, '66, '67, '68, '75; Henry Lapp, 1869, '70 and '76; William L. Paxon, 1871; LeGrand Goslin, 1872; R. S. Tabor, 1873; Jacob Klicker, 1874; William T. Magoffin, 1877, '80, '82, '83; Charles A. Clark, 1878, '79; Wilson P. Hoag, 1881. On the 1st of May, 1883, the lodge numbered sixty-one members.

Alden Lodge No. 594.—This lodge is located at Alden, in the county of Erie, and received its warrant at the June session of the Grand Lodge in 1866. The following brethren have occupied the Master's chair:—Brothers Spencer Stone, 1866, '70, '74, '75; William E. Saunders, 1867, '68, '71; Ralph N. Butler, 1869; William Robinson, 1872, '73; Edward R. Hall, 1876, '77; Herschel K. Fullerton, 1878, '79; George I. Patterson, 1880, '81, '82; John P. Edson, 1883. The lodge had forty-eight members on its register May 1st, 1883.

Fraternal Lodge No. 625.—This lodge now holds its communications at Hamburg, Erie county. It received its warrant from the Grand Lodge in June, 1867, since which time the following brethren have occupied the Master's chair:—Brothers Charles E. Haviland, 1867, '68; Robert C. Titus, 1869, '70, '71; Harvey C. Spencer, 1872, '73, '74; Horace W. White, 1875, '76, '77; Samuel E. S. H. Nott, 1878; Harvey C. Spencer, 1879, '80; Andrew Stein, 1881, '82, '83. The lodge had eighty-three members May 1, 1883.

Blazing Star Lodge, No. 694—This lodge is located at Aurora, Erie county. A dispensation to organize a lodge was granted February 11, 1868 to the following petitioners:—Brothers William D. Jones, William...

At the session of the Grand Lodge in June, 1869, the lodge received a warrant bearing date June 7, 1869. The officers named therein are William D. Jones, Master; William D. Wallis, S. W., and Robert G. Persons, J. W. The officers of the lodge for 1883 are Joseph McLaughlin, Master; Dwight M. Spooner, S. W., and Albert H. Hoyt, J. W. The following brethren were Masters of the lodge for the years opposite their respective names:—Brothers William D. Jones, 1869, '70, '71, '72, '78, '79; William D. Wallis, 1873, '74; Robert G. Persons, 1875, '76; William W. Grace, 1877; Adin J. Perry, 1880; Charles N. Brayton, 1881, '82; Joseph McLaughlin, 1883. On the 1st day of May, 1883, the lodge had ninety-nine members on itsrolls.

*Harmonie Lodge No. 699.*—This lodge working in the German tongue, is located in Buffalo, and is one of the sufferers by the fire in December, 1882, which destroyed its records. The date of the dispensation permitting the formation of the lodge is dated December 15, 1869. The following brethren signed the petition for that purpose:—Brother Sebastian C. Kiene, Frederick Traenkle, H. Breitweiser, Frank Schaeffer, Jacob Behm, Henry D. Keller, Henry Nauert and Joseph Timmerman, who at the time were all members of Concordia Lodge No. 143; also Brothers Henry F. Juengling, Christian Kurtzman, Henry Kraft, John J. Holser, Adam Corriellius, Robert Hager, Julius Schwarz, and Casper A. Kuster, all members of Modestia Lodge No. 340, and F. H. C. Mey, formerly of California.

The lodge received a warrant at the session of the Grand Lodge in June, 1870, which bears date June 13, 1870. The officers mentioned therein are Sebastian C. Kiene, M.; Henry F. Juengling, S. W.; Henry Breitweiser, J. W.

The first petitions for initiation received by the lodge while working under dispensation, were from Bernhard F. Gentsch, William H. Jaeger, Henry D. Zittel, and Werner Nachbar. Masters of the lodge were Brothers Sebastian C. Kiene, 1870, '71, '72; Henry F. Juengling, 1873; Henry L. Breitweiser, 1874; Henry Kraft, 1875, '76; George Werner, 1877, '78; Frederick Zesch, 1879, '80; Augustus J. Sutor, 1881, '82; Henry Zipp, 1883. On the 1st of May, 1883 the lodge numbered ninety-nine members.

*Occidental Lodge No. 766.*—This lodge is located at Black Rock, was opened by dispensation from the Grand Master December 4, 1875, and received its warrant at the June session of the Grand Lodge in 1876. The promise to permit an examination of its records remained unfulfilled. The following were Masters of the lodge: Brothers Henry Cutting,
1876,’77; Charles O. Rano, 1878, ’79; William H. Slacker, 1880; James A. Roberts, 1881; Wallace C. Hill, 1882, ’83. Number of members May 1, 1883, was sixty-two.

Fortune Lodge No. 788.—This is the youngest chartered lodge in the State, having received its warrant at the session of the Grand Lodge in June, 1883. It is located at North Collins, Erie county. A dispensation to form a lodge was issued in the fall of 1882, to the following brethren:—A. T. Huson, E. W. Sisson, U. H. Baker, Job Southwick, David Sherman, R. D. Reid, Nicholas Keefer, Alexander Sisson, R. W. Stickney, Charles Wood, Syth Huson, H. M. Blasdell, W. H. Estes, J. Q. Tucker and E. F. Partridge.

While working under this dispensation Brother A. T. Huson was M.; Brother E. W. Sisson, S. W.; and Brother U. H. Baker, J. W., of the lodge. The warrant issued to the lodge is dated June 7, 1883, and officers named therein are Brothers A. T. Huson, M.; Brother E. W. Sisson, S. W., and Brother U. H. Baker, J. W.


Besides the Masters, Senior and Junior Wardens above named, the following brethren filled the offices for which they are named:—Brothers R. D. Reid, Treas.; E. F. Partridge, Sec’y.; W. H. Estes, S. D.; David Sherman, J. D.; Nicholas Keefer, S. M. C.; Enos S. Hibbard; J. M. of C.; Alexander Sisson, T.

On the 15th of September, 1883, the lodge had nineteen members.

District Deputy Grand Masters.—In 1855 the Grand Lodge divided the State in Masonic Districts. Each district comprising counties contiguous to each other, was placed under the supervision of a District Deputy Grand Master, appointed by the Grand Master.

In 1855 and 1836, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming counties constituted the Eighth Masonic District, of which Brother Ellicott Evans, of Buffalo, was appointed District Deputy Grand Master.

In 1856 and 1857, Erie and Wyoming counties formed the eighteenth district, Brother Ellicott Evans continuing as D. D. G. M.

In 1857 and 1858, Erie and Niagara counties were united in district number sixteen and Brother Myron L. Burrill, of Lockport received the appointment of D. D. G. M.

In 1858 and 1859, the same two counties constituted the sixteenth district, with Joseph K. Tyler, of Buffalo, as D. D. G. M.

The same two counties continued to form district number sixteen during 1859 and 1860, with Brother Benjamin H. Austin, of Buffalo, as D. D. G. M.
In 1860 and 1861, Erie and Chautauqua counties composed district number nineteen, Brother Benjamin H. Austin continuing as D. D. G. M.

For 1861 and 1862, the same two counties continued to constitute the nineteenth district, with Brother Benjamin H. Austin as D. D. G. M.

In 1862 and 1863 Erie county was set off as district number twenty, of which Brother James McCredie, of Buffalo, became D. D. G. M.

1863 and 1864 found Brother R. N. Brown, of Buffalo, as D. D. G. M., and again in 1864 and '65, Brother James McCredie filled the office occupied by him in 1862 and 1863.

From 1865 to 1873, Erie county formed the twenty-second Masonic district, having the following brethren, all of Buffalo, for D. D. G. M.: 1865, '66, '67, Brother Christopher G. Fox; 1867, '68, Brother David F. Day; 1868, '69, Brother Joseph L. Haberstro; 1869, '70, Brother John B. Sackett; the latter, however, removing from the state soon after receiving the appointment, the Grand Master substituted Brother John A. Lockwood in his place. In 1870, '71, and 1871, '72, Brother John B. Manning occupied the position as D. D. G. M., and in 1872, '73, Brother Lorenzo M. Kenyon.

In 1873 Erie county was set off as district number twenty-five, the District Deputy Grand Masters of which were all from Buffalo, with the exception of one. For 1873, '74, Brother Lorenzo M. Kenyon; 1874, '75, and 1875, '76, Brother Bertrand Chafée, of Springville; 1877, '78, and 1878, '79, Brother Charles E. Young; 1879, '80, and 1880, '81, Brother John C. Graves; 1882, '83, and 1883, '84, Brother William Hengerer.

In closing the part of this compilation referring to the lodges of Erie county, we would state that the whole number of brethren affiliated with its twenty-one lodges, consisted, according to official reports, May 1st, 1883, of two thousand seven hundred and twelve Master Masons. All below that degree are not reported, neither does the above number embrace those who have reached that degree but are not members of lodges. The number of the last two mentioned classes may be set down as three hundred. The total number of Masons in this county may, therefore, be stated as three thousand in round numbers.

The lodges have been given in chronological order and by the numbers they bear. To prevent confusion, however, it may be necessary to state that all of the old lodges, previous to 1845, had become extinct during the anti-Masonic excitement. The first lodge after the revival of Masonry, that received a warrant, was Hiram Lodge of Buffalo, which, under the re-enumeration ordered by the Grand Lodge, received the number 105, which makes it the oldest lodge existing in this county.

The majority of lodges in the district have cheerfully assented to our request to permit an examination of their records, which we gratefully acknowledge. Those who have refused us that privilege are mentioned in their proper place. Springville Lodge, No. 351, Zion No. 514, Akron
No. 527, Alden No. 594 and Fraternal No. 623, have not seen fit even to notice our fraternal request for information, although endorsed by the highest Masonic authority of this district.

**CAPITULAR MASONRY IN ERIE COUNTY.**

To our knowledge no extended or continuous record exists of the early history of Symbolic Masonry in Erie county. It was after a laborious search that we discovered the original documents furnishing information of the initiatory steps taken for the formation of Western Star Lodge No. 289, the first lodge in Erie county, an abstract of which appears in the preceding pages. Of the early history of Capitular Masonry in this county, we have found no trace beyond what the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the State furnish.

The first mention of Capitular Masonry in Erie county is contained in a resolution presented in the Grand Chapter February 6th, 1812, to the effect that a committee of one Royal Arch Mason, or Mark Master Mason, be appointed in each county in this State, to exert all lawful influence for the purpose of carrying the aforesaid resolution (alluding to the incorporation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter) into effect, etc. Under that resolution Zenas Barker was appointed for Niagara county, which at that time included Erie county as before stated. Zenas Barker, then a resident of Buffalo, was the Brother who was to be the first master of Western Star Lodge No. 239, which was to be held at his house.

From the date when the resolution was offered in the Grand Chapter, as above stated, to the year 1822, no trace is discoverable of any attempt to establish a chapter in the territory which is now embraced in Erie county. At the convocation of the Grand Chapter, however, in February, 1822, on the 7th of that month, Niagara Chapter No. 71, to be located at Buffalo, was called into existence.

**Niagara Chapter No. 71.**—A warrant was granted "to Companions Heman B. Potter, Charles Townsend and John A. Lassell, to hold a chapter at Buffalo, county of Erie, by the name of Niagara Chapter No. 71." No particulars are obtainable at this time of the doings of Niagara Chapter. In 1823, Companion Charles Townsend represented Niagara Chapter in the Grand Chapter, but in 1824, it remained unrepresented. In 1825, Companions Stephen K. Grosvenor and Charles Townsend attended the Grand Chapter as representatives; in 1826, it was John G. Camp; in 1827, ’28 and ’29, it was Stephen K. Grosvenor again, but beyond that time no mention is made of Niagara Chapter. Niagara Chapter held its convocations in the building on the southeast corner of Main and Seneca streets, which was destroyed at the time of the great "Cheapside" fire, as it was called, embracing the west side of Main, Seneca and Pearl streets, and also the east side of Main street. The fire occurred November 15, 1832; by it the chapter lost all its effects, but its warrant was
saved by the daring of one of its members, the late Companion Miles Jones, who snatched it out of the flames. It was subsequently placed in the custody of Buffalo Chapter No. 71, and was again saved from the conflagration in December, 1882, which destroyed the Masonic Hall, on the northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets.

*Springville Chapter No. 118.*—Four years after a warrant had been obtained for the formation of Niagara Chapter, the Grand Chapter granted February 10, 1826, a charter to Companions Job Bigelow, H. P., Archibald Griffith, K., Jarvis Bloomfield, S., and others, to hold a chapter at Concord, in the county of Erie, by the name of Springville, No. 118.

The chapter was represented in the Grand Chapter by Job Bigelow, during the years 1827, ’28, ’29, ’30, ’31 and ’32.

At the convocation of the Grand Chapter February 6, 1833, the Grand Council reported “that the certificate presented by Companion Job Bigelow is defective, not having a date, and, in their opinion, does not entitle him to a seat in the Grand Chapter as the representative of Springville Chapter No. 118;” whereupon the following resolution was offered and referred to the committee on charity:

“Resolved. That the sum of forty-eight dollars be allowed Companion Job Bigelow.”

The committee on charity reported:

“That, after duly considering all the circumstances in relation to Companion Bigelow, they are of the opinion that he ought to receive by way of charity the amount he would have received as the representative of Springville Chapter, had his credentials been in conformity with the constitution.”

It may be presumed that after that year the chapter had ceased to exist as no further mention is made of it.

*Buffalo Chapter No. 71.*—No steps were taken to revive Niagara Chapter No. 71, after the fire of 1832, neither were there any steps taken to form a new one until the latter part of the year 1847, when a petition was presented to the Grand High Priest for a dispensation to hold a chapter in Buffalo, which was signed by the following Companions: Orange H. Dibble, Solomon Drillard, Benjamin H. Austin, Jabez J. Rogers, Daniel H. Wiswell, Daniel Kinney, Carlos Cobb, James L. Barton, Nehemiah Case, George W. Allen, Miles Jones, Seth Austin, Norman Butler, Charles Radcliff.

The petition was granted and Companion Orange H. Dibble was appointed H. P., Solomon Drillard, K., and Benjamin H. Austin, S., of the chapter.

At the convocation of the Grand Chapter February 1, 1848, the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That Niagara Chapter No. 71, at Buffalo, be revived under the name, style and title of Buffalo Chapter No. 71; that a new