

of Masons, and also the John Joseph Moakley Technology Center at Bridgewater State College, which is a state-of-the-art facility helping residents of the area master the latest in telecommunications skills. Mr. Speaker I ask that the history of this lodge, written by Luther Hayden, Jr., be printed here as an important example of how a community can nurture and be nurtured by its history.

#### HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS—1797-1972

(By Worshipful Luther L. Hayden, Jr.)

The first record of any movement toward the formation of the Lodge bears the date of October 1, 1796. At that time, a group of Masons of the old town of Bridgewater, desirous of having a meeting-place at or near their place of abode, appointed a committee to present a petition to the nearest Lodge. The petition was signed by Hector Orr, Charles Angier, Josiah Otis, Noah Fearing, Isaac Lazell, Nathan Lazeli, and Joseph Lazell. It was presented to Orphan's Hope Lodge of Weymouth, asking for a recommendation to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge that it grant a charter for a lodge in Bridgewater, to be called Fellowship Lodge.

The first meeting of which we have a record was held at the home of Brother Hector Orr, in the East Parish of Bridgewater, on June 30, 1797. On October 2, officers of The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts came to Bridgewater, and at that time Most Worshipful Paul Revere consecrated and constituted Fellowship Lodge.

The charter of Fellowship Lodge is dated June 15, 1797, and is worthy of special mention. It is signed by Most Worshipful Paul Revere. During his term of office, twenty-three new lodges were formed, and several of these have their original charter. Fellowship Lodge is one of these.

In order to appreciate the period in which Fellowship Lodge was formed, it would be well to note what was happening in our country in 1797. George Washington had just completed his second term, and in March, 1797, John Adams, second president of the United States, had been inaugurated. The cornerstone of the first Capitol building in Washington had just been laid with elaborate Masonic ceremonies, in which George Washington took part. The Town of Bridgewater was composed of what is now Brockton, West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and Bridgewater.

In 1835, due to the strong anti-Masonic feeling which prevailed throughout this nation, the Lodge voted to suspend its regular meetings. From 1835-1845, only one candidate received the degrees. The charter was never surrendered during this time. Tradition informs us that it was concealed in the caves of the Jonathan Ames house on South Street in West Bridgewater.

Regular meetings were resumed in September, 1845, and a period of lively Masonic activity took place. By 1868, 140 new members had been added to the rolls.

In 1869, Fellowship Lodge purchased its first permanent home, located on the site of the present Temple. In 1872, a third story was added to form the lodge room which many of us came to know so well.

On June 15, 1897, the 100th Anniversary was observed. Apparently the whole town participated, for a newspaper list of decorated buildings includes practically all public and commercial buildings, as well as many homes. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Charles G. Hutchinson, and many members of Grand Lodge were in attendance. After an hour-long parade, an anniversary meeting was held, followed by a banquet. The Reverend Dr. George C. Lorimer, minister of Tremont Temple, delivered the principal address. One report states that over 800 attended.

In 1922, the 125th Anniversary was observed with a church service, ladies' night, and a commemorative communication. The grand Lodge was represented by the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden.

In 1936, according to Right Worshipful Herbert K. Pratt, "the Lodge was swept with a wave of dramatic fervor." The Fellowship Players were organized, and for several years a different play by Worshipful Carl H. Claudy was produced annually. Invitations were received from far and wide, and the Players traveled from Provincetown to Boston, appearing before an estimated ten thousand Masons. During World War II, the Players submerged, but every now and then they surface, upon request, to reenact their perennial favorite "A Rose on The Altar."

On June 15, 1947, the Lodge celebrated its 150th Anniversary with church services and a special communication. Most Worshipful Samuel H. Wragg and several other Grand Lodge officers were our guests. The observance ended with a banquet at the Albert Gardner Boyden Gymnasium.

At the February 24, 1964 meeting of the Lodge, a committee was appointed to look into the advisability of either remodeling the lodge building or erecting a new Temple. For a number of years it had become increasingly apparent that extensive repairs would have to be made to the old structure, which had been the home of Fellowship lodge for nearly 100 years. The building was structurally weak and the lodge room on the third floor was a potential firetrap. After considerable study, by this committee and others that follows, at the May 2, 1996 meeting, erection of a new building on the same site was recommended and it was voted to proceed with the project.

The building committee then set to work in earnest. A brochure was prepared showing plans for the proposed new Temple, and at the June 6th communication a drive for funds was initiated, with Brother Thomas Carroll, our oldest member, making the first contribution. Arrangements were made for the Lodge to meet in the quarters of Satucket Lodge in East Bridgewater. Late in July, demolition of the old building was begun. Construction proceeded with few interruptions, and by the fall of 1967 the building was ready for occupancy.

September 7, 1967, was a Red Letter Day in the history of Fellowship Lodge. On that day, officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts came to Bridgewater, and Most Worshipful Thomas A. Booth presided over the laying of the cornerstone and dedication of the new Temple. Masons from far and near taxed the capacity of the lodge room to participate in the traditional Masonic ceremonies. Then, on April 3, 1968, a mortgage-burning ceremony proclaimed the Lodge's freedom from encumbrances. Thus, the hopes and plans of Fellowship Lodge came to fruition, and another page added to the story of Masonry in Bridgewater.

No account of the building of the Temple would be complete without credit being given to those whose efforts and contributions made it possible. First, to the Building Committee, who labored so tirelessly for a period of more than two years, studying, planning, and finally supervising the building construction. Second, to all those who subscribed so generously to the drive for funds. Third, to the memory of those whose gifts and bequests were largely responsible for our being able to build without incurring indebtedness: namely, Brothers Elmer Edson Kimball and John Gardner Braman; Paul Revere, great-grandson of the signer of our charter; Mrs. Flora T. Little, widow of Brother Walter S. Little; and Mrs. Eleanor G. Reynolds, daughter of Brother Harry H.

Bragdon, Lodge treasurer for thirty-nine years. To these, and many others, Fellowship Lodge owes a debt of undying gratitude.

For 175 years, Fellowship Lodge has survived through wars, depressions and the anti-Masonic period, and has prospered. It has become a recognized and respected influence for good in the community. As a unit of a great Fraternity, international in its scope, we should like to feel that it has played its part in the promotion of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth to all men "wherever dispersed over the face of this earth." May God grant that its future be as bright as its past.

#### TRIBUTE TO DARLENE REINKEMEYER

#### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Darlene Reinkemeyer became executive director of the Missouri Funeral Directors Association in 1992 and almost immediately members noticed something had changed for the better.

With Darlene's directing, memberships increased sharply, membership services tripled, and the association's programs for continuing education seminars, licensure, and professional development were enhanced and scheduled on a more frequent basis.

The MFDA Newsletter took on a new life with added information and diverse advertising. The newsletter is now regarded as one of the best in the country.

Reinkemeyer was a key figure in restoring credibility to the Missouri Funeral Trust by developing effective contracts, folders, and forms and implementing a computerized record keeping system that gave the system new accountability, and reduced costs. The MFT now manages \$30 million. The system Reinkemeyer authored has been copied in other States.

Darlene also put the Missouri Funeral Directors Association into the information age, too. The MFDA is on the Internet and its offices are computerized. In the last year, she was instrumental in providing the MDFA with new offices and headquarters building. The Association, with Reinkemeyer at the helm, is financially stable with a sound process of planning and acquisition of assets and capital improvements.

Darlene Reinkemeyer has decided to leave her position, and funeral home directors in Missouri will miss her. Her efforts have improved the profession in Missouri to the benefit of those persons who need their services in times of great bereavement. We wish Darlene Reinkemeyer the very best in her pursuits.

#### HONORING RAY L. TURNER

#### HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today in appreciation of Mr. Ray L. Turner, a loyal and dedicated friend who has been named the Indiana School Social