



*Masonic Temple
Hagerstown, Maryland*

**CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF
FRIENDSHIP LODGE NO. 84
A.F. AND A.M.**

**BY
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PREFACE	4
CHAPTER I	5
HAGERSTOWN AND WASHINGTON COUNTY IN EARLY YEARS OF LAST CENTURY.	5
CHAPTER II	8
EARLY MASONRY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.	8
UREKA NO. 69.	12
MT. MORIAH CHAPTER NO. II.	12
CHAPTER III	14
THE GENESIS OF FRIENDSHIP LODGE NO 84.	14
CHAPTER IV	17
THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS - THE PERIOD OF ESTABLISHMENT AND STRUGGLE.	17
CHARLES H. OHR.	23
CONDITIONS FROM 1826 TO 1839.	24
CHAPTER V	27
FROM 1847 TO 1858 - THE PERIOD OF LETHARGY.	27
CHAPTER VI	30
FROM 1858 TO 1887 - THE PERIOD OF APATHY.	30
CHAPTER VII	38
THE GRAND OLD MAN OF FRIENDSHIP LODGE.	38
CHAPTER VIII	42
FROM 1889 TO 1900 - THE PERIOD OF ACHIEVEMENT.	42

CHAPTER IX	45
BUILDING AND DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE.	45
CHAPTER X	48
FROM 1901 TO 1927 - THE PERIOD OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.	48
CHAPTER XI	52
CONCLUSION.	52
APPENDIX A	53
FINDING THE LOST TREASURE.	53

PREFACE

In preparing this History of Friendship Lodge No. 84, the author has constantly kept before him the idea that historical accuracy should be paramount in such a work. While opportunities were plentiful and temptations great to draw upon the imagination, and thus elaborate a more vivid and pleasing picture of the growth and development of the Lodge, it was felt that a true history must deal with facts, whether the facts prove to be interesting and pleasing or otherwise. No attempt has been made to overemphasize the brighter incidents of the Lodge's history, nor to gloss over those things which perhaps were better forgotten. An honest effort has been made to present Friendship's past in its true historical great light.

The main source of information was, of course, the minutes of the organization, all of which have been read. The Grand Lodge Reports likewise were found to contain a fund of valuable information: Schultz's *History of Freemasonry in Maryland* was frequently drawn upon and was found quite valuable, as were also Williams' *History of Washington County* and the *History of the Hagerstown Bank*.

To Brother Gerard Everstine, Assistant Grand Lecturer, is due the thanks and gratitude of the author for his helpful criticisms in the preparation of the manuscript.

J. LLOYD HARSHMAN.

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND,
MAY, 1927

CHAPTER I

HAGERSTOWN AND WASHINGTON COUNTY IN EARLY YEARS OF LAST CENTURY.

Were Jonathan Hager, Samuel Ringgold and Nathaniel Rochester to come back to Hagerstown today what a transformation they would find! Naturally they would proceed first to the Public Square in quest of the County Court House and Public Market House, which until 1822 was situated in the very center of the Square. This quaint old building stood sixty feet square and two stories high. The lower, or first story, being open, was used as a market place and there, also, was installed the whipping post, which was in vogue in those days; the second story served as a Court House. At the site of this building, they would find the Square solidly paved and traversed by iron tracks, over which are continually operated vehicles the purpose of which they could not readily understand. Near very center of the old Court and Market building site they would find towering an automatic traffic signal directing still other vehicles of conveyance entirely unfamiliar to them. Next, they would glance around to inspect some of the old familiar residences which in their day were grouped around the square, only to find them supplanted by magnificent stores and other business establishments where more trade is now carried on in a single day than was transacted then in all of Washington County in an entire year.

In extending their gaze farther, instead of finding the City limits a block or two away, they would see houses—houses—houses as far as the eye can reach, and the streets heavily laden with rapidly moving traffic at every hour of the day.....strange "horseless carriages" they would call these conveyances. To the north one block they would see the City-Hall Tower-Clock, which tolls the time from the very sky, as it were, a clock whose massive quadruple dial is never obscured by the darkest night. Here their eyes would meet a strangely familiar object, in the person of Little

Heiskell, "the brave miniature soldier, still buffeting old Boreas" and telling those of the present day which way the wind is blowing; but more of Little Heiskell, anon.

Looking west, one block from the site of the old Court House, they would see a large modern three-story brick Court House standing where then stood mere shacks.

All about them would be strange new agencies and conditions. The old familiar village blacksmith's shop south of the Square is now transformed into a magnificent garage where strange, self-propelled vehicles are repaired; on the old one-and-a-half-story tavern site now stands a commodious hotel; up and down the streets run car tracks, entirely unheard of in a former day; overhead stretch wires, to men of that period useless nuisances, as they could not foresee that over these routes in our century would pass an almost uninterrupted series of messages of the greatest import, eliminating time of communication between far distant places. With the fall of night, our visitors from a previous age find the streets still literally as light as day, thanks to peculiar "lamps" which require neither fluid nor match to light them. They are surprised to find in the streets, instead of mud and filth and débris, asphalt and cement and pavement. Repairing to their cherished haunts in the country, they find in every direction miles and miles of floor-like macadam highways instead of the almost bottomless mud roads of their day. Looking about them, they behold, instead of wilderness and Indian wigwams, the finest agriculture region in the United States, improved with magnificent farm buildings in perfect condition. If it be summer, they may see a peculiar contrivance drawn by six horses and reaping as much golden wheat in one hour as twelve or fifteen men then cut in an entire day. Their wonder is aroused by other modern farm machinery, comparable to the reaper in saving labor and time, and about which the sturdy farmers of a former age knew nothing.

They learn that the population of Washington County is now four times larger than then, and the population of Hagerstown more than eighteen times larger.

Four steam railways with massive engines drawing long trains of freight to and from their

sacred village arouse their questioning amazement.

Our ghostly visitors are hospitably received into a modern home equipped with heating plant in the cellar to warm the entire house. They see the modern wife light her gas oven without visible agency, and in an instant have dinner broiling over a glowing fire. The tallow candles are supplanted by strange powerful lights suspended from the ceiling; while the bath snugly closeted in an immaculately tiled room is beyond their comprehension. A button is pressed, and lo! they actually hear “voices from the air” from a remote part of the globe, thanks to a mysterious device whereby at their own fireside stay-at-home folks are enabled simultaneously to enjoy those things which others many miles distant are contemplating visually.

And finally, our ancient friends are surprised to learn that Baltimore is now as accessible as Boonsboro was in their generation, and that instead of an incompleated mud-and-stone road we now have a macadam boulevard traversing the entire distance to the Maryland metropolis.

Such, by implication, were some of the conditions existing in this community when Friendship Lodge No. 84 was chartered a century ago, and such are some of the changes wrought during that same span of time.

CHAPTER II

EARLY MASONRY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

The first Masonic Lodge Chartered and Constituted in this County was Mt. Moriah No. 33, located at Hagerstown, then called Elizabethtown. This Lodge was Chartered in 1802, having as its first Worshipful Master, Dr. Richard Pindall, who, in 1806, was elected and served for one term as Grand Master of Masons of Maryland. There is no doubt that, prior to this time, there were a number of Master Masons in the County, but they did not form themselves into a Lodge before the date mentioned.

This Lodge flourished until the early thirties, but made no report to the Grand Lodge after 1832. It could not withstand the anti-Masonic excitement engendered by the Morgan affair, and, while it did not immediately surrender its Charter, it lapsed into total inactivity and finally perished. It probably reached the peak of its prosperity about 1822, for then it joined with the City in building a combined Market House and Masonic Temple—the present City Hall. On St. John's day, June 24, 1822, the corner stone of the new building was laid with imposing ceremonies; preparations for the event had been in active progress for weeks. The arrangements were in the hands of Mt. Moriah Lodge, and the committee was composed of Samuel Ringgold, Otho Holland Williams, Henry Lewis, William Price, William D. Bell, George F. Kreps and Samuel Rohrer. Masons from all the neighboring towns and cities, in great numbers, were in attendance. They formed in a procession at the Court House and marched to the site of the building, preceded by a choir, singing *Hail Mystic Art!* The Masons were clad in black or blue coats and trousers, white waist-coats, black hats, white gloves and wore their aprons and sashes. Upon arriving at the stone, prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Shaw, an oration was delivered, and then the ceremony of laying the stone was performed. The procession thereupon moved to the German Lutheran Church, which is probably the same little church now standing on the Northeast corner of South Locust and East Antietam Streets, where services were

conducted by the Rev. Benjamin Kurtz, the pastor of the church, and a sermon preached by the Rev. John Clark of Greencastle. After leaving the church, the procession returned to the Court House and was then dismissed. An elaborate dinner had been prepared at the "Wabash Springs," a great picnic resort a short distance from town on the Funkstown road, the location of which cannot now be established. A great many articles and papers were deposited in the corner stone, and in all papers probability are still there in safety to this day— "for the inspection, perhaps, of future ages." Among the other papers is a list of the officers and members of Mt. Moriah Lodge, officers of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, the names of the President of the United States and Cabinet, the officers of the State and County and of the various local institutions of the town; also the names of the various ministers and church officers, a copy of the Bible and numerous Masonic documents. The prayer, addresses and sermon delivered on this occasion were bound in pamphlet form, one of which is now in the Masonic Temple Library of this City.

At the dedication of the new hall, which took place on St. John's day, June 24th, 1824, three hundred Masons were present and the ceremonies were conducted according to an ancient and solemn form. The committee consisted of Frisby Tilghman, Thomas Kennedy, Wm. D. Bell, Wm. Hammond, Henry Lewis, George Brumbaugh and Otho Holland Williams. The religious services were conducted at the Lutheran Church by the Rev. Benjamin Kurtz, and an oration was delivered by Col. B. C. Howard, the Grand Master of Maryland. In the procession, besides the three hundred Masons, were the clergymen of the town and five companies of militia—the American Blues, the Washington Huzzars, the Union Guards, the Washington Yeagers and the Warren Rifle Corps.

For several months during the spring and summer of 1823 the town was in an uproar over "Little Heiskell." In the contract between the Moderator and Commissioners of the town and the Masons under which the latter erected their lodge over the Market House, it was set forth that the work should be done according to the specifications then agreed upon and submitted. These specifications showed a Masonic square and compasses for a weather vane upon the cupola, and the square and compasses were accordingly placed there. Immediately there was a great outcry. The newspapers were filled with indignant and excited protests.

Correspondents protested against the symbols of Masonry and begged that 'our good little friend Heiskell' be elevated to the prominent and important position at the summit of the Market House. 'It is he who has buffeted old Boreas and told us which way the wind has blown for many years.' They suggested as a compromise with the Masons, that little Heiskell be invested with an apron, embellished, if they pleased, with the square and compasses. The Masons did not fail to reply, and the papers were filled with many sarcastic shafts directed against the Moderator and commissioners; these worthy officials, however, gave heed to the public clamor, and the square and compasses were ordered down and Little Heiskell reinstated in his lofty station as overseer of the town."

"Little Heiskell's" origin is not known; neither is it known where and how he derived his name. It is recorded history, however, that for many years, he proudly surmounted the roof of the Old Court House in the Square, and revolved upon a rod in obedience to the wind just as he does today. He no doubt occupied that position from the time that old building was erected, sometime between 1780 and 1785.

In 1827, Mt. Moriah Lodge had fifty-seven members, among these many names familiar to the present generation. Its list of members follows:

Officers: William Bell, Worshipful Master; David Morrison, Senior Warden; Charles G. Lane, Junior Warden; George Kealhofer, Secretary; George Brumbaugh, Treasurer.

Past Masters: Otho Holland Williams, Samuel Ringgold, Frisby Tilghman and William Hammond.

Master Masons: Matthew Murray, John V. Swearingen, Joseph Martin, John Reynolds, Edward P. Reynolds, William Price, Andrew Hognire, William Albert, William Boulton, James Davis, George Swearingen, Thomas B. Hall, Joshua Murray, Thomas Hammond, Thomas Post, Robert M. Tidball, Samuel Long, Ellis Ellis, John Henneberger, Ferdinand Bodman, Martin Newcomer, Henry J. Schaeffer, George Barr, Jacob Brush, James Zwisler, John Witner, Jr., John Kanavel, William Kreps, John Sleigh, Jr., John D. Ridenour, Henry Wilkinson, Daniel Miller, George R. Beall, John R. Doll, Jacob Powles, Jacob B. Motter, Charles Robinson, Daniel Oster, Thomas

Sturr, James Watson, John M. Fink, Thomas Trice, Merritt Thompson, Frederick Unger, Harry Myers, David F. Hammett and William Hammett.

In addition to Grand Master Pindall, old Mt. Moriah furnished to the Grand Lodge a Junior Grand Warden in 1811, Samuel Ringgold, who was elected and installed in that office, and also a Junior and a Senior Grand Warden, in the person of Otho Holland Williams, who was elected as Junior Grand Warden, May, 1825, and later installed as such in Mt. Moriah Lodge. He was re-elected in 1826, and in 1827 and 1828 was elected Senior Grand Warden. Schultz's list of Senior Grand Wardens does not include the name of Brother Williams, yet the Grand Lodge Reports for May, 1827, and May, 1828, show that he was elected to that station for both of those years. He also signed the Charter of Friendship Lodge as Senior Grand Warden.

General Samuel Ringgold was one of the most prominent citizens of the State during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. He owned Conococheague Manor consisting of seventeen thousand acres. Upon this estate he built the mansion house of Fountain Rock. The architect of this residence was Benjamin H. Latrobe, the designer of the Capitol at Washington. It was later converted into St. James College. He represented this County one term in the State Senate and with an intermission of two years, from 1815 to 1817, he represented this district in Congress, from 1810 to 1821, having been elected five terms. In 1820, he was one of the Commission to buy a lot and build a new Court House in Hagerstown. He died in 1829.

Otho Holland Williams was a nephew of General Otho Holland Williams, of Revolutionary fame. His father, Eli Williams, was the first Clerk of the Court for Washington County, to which position the son succeeded him in 1800, filling the office continuously till 1845. The younger Otho Holland Williams was most active in public as well as fraternal affairs during the first half of the last Century.

UREKA NO. 69.

The next Lodge to be Chartered in the County was Ureka at Boonsboro, organized October 4th, 1821, under dispensation granted by Grand Master Wirgman, on September 10th, 1821. It was instituted and constituted by Otho Holland Williams, Inspector for Washington County. Its Charter was granted at the Grand Lodge Communication in the following November. In 1827 it had thirty-four members and seemed in a flourishing condition, but under the onslaught resulting from the Morgan affair it, too, began to wither and droop, and finally perished altogether in 1832.

The list of its Officers and members in 1827 follows:

Officers: John Whitmore, Worshipful Master; John A. Bentz, Senior Warden; John Newcomer, Junior Warden; Abijah Smith, Treasurer; George Strause, Secretary; Samuel Bentz, Senior Deacon; Samuel Knodle, Junior Deacon; and Lewis Fletcher, Tyler.

Past Masters: Peter Seibert, Dr. George W. Boerstler, and Ellis Davis.

Master Masons: Joseph Weast, Jacob Huffer, Samuel Newcomer, William Eakle, Samuel M'Farland, Thomas Shaw, Jonathan Knodle, Samuel Cunningham, Daniel Whitmer, William Flaut, Thomas Edwards, Henry Bourman, Daniel Spelman, Jacob J. Ohr, Christian Artz, David Barkman, Elias O'Neal, David Betts, Michael Beard, Samuel Shoppman, Christopher Hillard, William W. Baker and Joseph Eakle.

MT. MORIAH CHAPTER NO. II.

Grand High Priest Johannes E. Jackson on January 10th, 1824, granted a dispensation for the formation of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Hagerstown, to be known as Mt. Moriah Chapter; this, however, had a very short existence, as it ceased to be represented after 1828, and from that time no records are known to exist.

Otho Holland Williams was its first High Priest; Frisby Tilghman its first King; and William Hammond its first Scribe. At one time it had thirty-seven members, including some of the most prominent representatives of the County in that day. Herewith appended is a complete list of its members : William D. Bell, David Morrison, Matthew Murray, Jacob B. Motter, George Brumbaugh, Thomas B. Duckett, George Kealhofer, William D. Magill, James Davis, John Henneberger, Joshua Murray, Daniel Oster, Henry J. Shafer, Joseph Fiery, Jacob Kessinger, Ellis Davis, Jacob Powles, Thomas Stur, George Swearingen, George W. Boerstler, Thomas Hammand, William Price, Thomas Post, Charles Robinson, Martin Newcomer, John Sleigh, Jr., John D. Ridenour, Charles G. Lane, Thomas B. Hall, Andrew Hogmire, Joseph Martin, William Wood, John D. Work, Jacob Wolf, George Zollinger, Henry Myers, and Thomas Trice.

CHAPTER III

THE GENESIS OF FRIENDSHIP LODGE NO 84.

In 1827, some of the members of both Mt. Moriah and Ureka lived in Williamsport, about six miles from Hagerstown and some twelve miles from Boonsboro, the respective locations of the two Lodges mentioned. Williamsport in that day was one of the most thriving towns west of Frederick, with about nine hundred inhabitants, among whom were represented the most prosperous and prominent families in the County. The brethren of Williamsport, however, felt that it was too great a hardship to attend the Lodge in Hagerstown or Boonsboro, as the mud roads in winter were almost impassable; early in 1827, therefore, they petitioned Mt. Moriah, the nearest Lodge, for permission to organize themselves into a new Lodge to be known and designated as Friendship Lodge. Having procured the consent of Mt. Moriah Lodge, almost immediately they petitioned Grand Master Howard for a dispensation, and on February 7th, 1827, authorization was granted to Meredith Helm, Worshipful Master, Daniel Mallott, Senior Warden, and Joseph Hollman, Junior Warden, to found a Lodge at Williamsport, Washington County, Maryland, under the name and title of Friendship Lodge U. D.

In addition to the three above-named officers, the following also were Charter members: William Harvey, Secretary; Jacob Wolf, Treasurer; Joseph Fiery, John Clier, Charles Hesletine, Thor Nor, Eli Baker, Jonathan Knodle, Jacob Fiery, John Herr, Daniel Ceyster, Van S. Brashier and Cephas Barteson--sixteen in all.

Eli Baker was the first Senior Deacon, Jacob Fiery the first Junior Deacon and Charles Hesletine the first Tyler.

At the May Communication of the Grand Lodge, in 1826, Dr. G. W. Boerstler, a prominent physician of Jerusalem, now Funkstown, and a Past Master and member of Ureka Lodge, was appointed Grand Inspector for Washington County. In his report to

the Grand Lodge May Communication, in 1827, after speaking of the flourishing condition of Mt. Moriah and Ureka, he says:

I also visited Friendship Lodge, working under dispensation; and from the worth of its members, and expertness of its officers, I cheerfully recommend it as a flourishing scion, which promises soon to become a venerable tree, under whose shade, the way-worn and distressed brother may rest and be refreshed.

At the May communication, in 1827, Friendship was represented by Junior Grand Warden Otho Holland Williams, Jacob Wolf and William Harvey. The fees and dues paid were \$22.00, Grand Lodge fund \$9.00, and for Charter \$40.00.

These representatives returned the minutes of their proceedings and their dispensation to the Grand Lodge, and petitioned for a Charter. On motion, they were referred to a Committee consisting of Peter Little, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master and, at that time one of the brightest Masonic lights of the United States, William Steuart, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and Brother McIlhenny. The next morning (May 22, 1827), the committee through Brother Steuart delivered the following report:

The committee appointed to examine the proceedings of a number of brethren in Washington County working under dispensation granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master to Brother Meredith Helm, et. al., in the town of Williamsport, bearing date February 7th, A. L. 5827, A. D., 1827, report, "That they have had before them the minutes of their proceedings, and find them to be in conformity with ancient custom; your committee are therefore of opinion that the prayer of the petitioners ought to be granted, and submit the following resolution:

Resolved, that a warrant be granted to Brother Meredith Helm, as Worshipful Master, Daniel Mallott, as Senior Warden and Joseph Hollman, as Junior Warden, to hold a Lodge at

Williamsport, Washington County, Maryland,
under the name and title of Friendship Lodge
No. 84.

This resolution was adopted and the Charter which was issued in pursuance of it bears the date of May 22nd, 1827. At the evening session of the same day, Brother Keyser offered the following resolution, which was concurred in:

Resolved, that Brother Otho H. Williams, Junior Grand Warden (he having been elected as Senior Grand Warden at this communication) and Brother Dr. George W. Boerstler, Past Master of Ureka Lodge, be, and they are hereby requested to install the officers of Friendship Lodge No. 84, at Williamsport, Washington County, Maryland, and constitute the same.

Almost immediately the Brothers designated proceeded to constitute Friendship Lodge, and we thereupon find her officially starting on her hundred-year journey, which carried her through many periods of adversity, but at last brought her to her present high state in Masonic affairs in the State of Maryland. We shall see that in the course of her long journey invariably she met and overcame obstacles in true Masonic fashion; always issuing from her difficulties stronger and more flourishing than when overtaken by them.

CHAPTER IV

THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS - THE PERIOD OF ESTABLISHMENT AND STRUGGLE.

During the three months that Friendship Lodge worked under dispensation it was very active. Pursuant to the dispensation which was granted on February 7th, 1827, the Lodge held its first meeting on the 12th of the same month, in a room set apart for that purpose, in the home of Joseph Hollman, its Junior Warden.

The Lodge continued to hold its meetings there for the first year after which it moved into a commodious room on the third floor of the adjoining building which also was owned by Joseph Hollman.

The rent was paid at the rate of twenty dollars per year.

Between February 12th and May 12th the Lodge had eleven meetings and initiated, passed and raised three candidates.

At the first meeting a committee was appointed to prepare a set of by-laws. This committee made its report on the same evening. The by-laws reported by it were at once adopted. One of the sections provided for a fine of twenty-five cents to be imposed on members for non attendance of regular lodge meetings and for being late. This provision was quite frequently enforced. A motion was passed to have fifty copies of the by-laws printed for distribution among the present and future members.

The following resolution was adopted at this first meeting:

Resolved, that the thanks of this Lodge be tendered to the Brethren of Mt. Moriah No. 33, for their early kindness towards us in bearing honorable testimony to our character before the Grand Master of

Maryland and especially for their acceptable present of the furniture of their former Lodge Room.

Resolved, that a copy of the above be sent to Mt. Moriah No. 33.

The first candidate, Cephas Barteson, petitioned the Lodge for initiation at its third meeting.

It is amusing to note that immediately after receiving this petition a motion was made and passed to have one hundred, instead of fifty, copies of the by-laws printed.

After the charter was granted they settled down to one regular meeting per month. Otho Holland Williams, agreeably to the resolution of the Grand Lodge, Instituted and Constituted the Lodge and installed the officers on Thursday evening July 5th, 1827.

During the meeting held on September 27th, 1827, a committee was appointed to have the Charter framed. This Committee acted according to instructions and the Charter is still encased in the same frame.

In the following December a Lodge seal was procured—the same seal being used to this day.

Seven candidates were initiated, passed and raised during the first year. This was an excellent beginning and equalled the work done by the Lodge in the recent year of 1923.

Meredith Helm was re-elected Worshipful Master in 1828; the other officers were also re-elected to their respective offices. This year also proved to be quite flourishing for the Lodge, though it did not equal the activity of the preceding year. It was during this year (May 12th) that the Lodge suffered the loss, by death, of its first member, Daniel Ceyster—who was buried with Masonic Ceremonies, just one year from the date of his raising by the Lodge.

Daniel Mallott served as Worshipful Master through 1829; William Harvey and Jacob Wolf were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively, the latter serving as Treasurer until his death in November, 1839.

On June 24th, 1829, the Lodge laid the cornerstone for the Lutheran Church in Williamsport. The Martinsburg band was engaged to furnish music for the procession and during the ceremony.

In 1830, Cephas Barteson was elected and installed as Worshipful Master and Joseph Fiery as Secretary. Nothing of importance occurred during the year, and the Lodge did little or no work, although it held its regular meeting each month. The excitement from the Morgan affair was beginning to be felt in the community, and there were naturally some members who severed their connections from the Lodge.

The condition that existed in 1830, also prevailed through 1831 and 1832, during which later years Meredith Helm again served as Worshipful Master. In 1831 Charles Hesletine was elected Secretary to which office he was continually elected down to 1837. During the years 1831 and 1832 the Lodge met regularly but it received no petitions for membership,

It was during this period that the Anti-Masonic feeling was at its height.

The members no doubt encountered a bitter struggle and at one time they even considered dissolving altogether. On October 20th, 1831, it was resolved, "that it is inexpedient to dissolve the Lodge at the present and that it be conducted as usual." A committee, however, was appointed to secure a more regular attendance.

The members evidently suffered many unpleasant jibes from the enemies of Masonry for in the minutes of October 31st, 1832, reference is made to "the foul aspersions against the Fraternity by the Anti-Masonic party."

William Harvey served as Worshipful Master in 1833. Conditions were brighter during that year. Three candidates petitioned for initiation and the Lodge continued to meet regularly.

William S. Morrison presided over the Lodge from 1834 to 1836 inclusive. The Lodge continued to receive applications for membership and to function, although there was no stated meeting held from September 3rd, 1835 to July 21st, 1836.

In 1834, the Lodge purchased the Jewels of Mt. Moriah Lodge which had previously gone out of existence. On September 12th of the same year, Williamsport held a celebration in honor of General Lafayette. The Lodge accepted an invitation from the Town Officials to participate, and to join in the procession.

At the November, 1836, communication of the Grand Lodge, Friendship paid \$35.50 Grand Lodge dues. From this time on for several years, she enjoyed unusual prosperity, for we find the membership rising from fourteen in 1833 to twenty-six in 1838.

Jacob Rhodes was elected Worshipful Master and William S. Morrison, Secretary in 1837. Rhodes held the office of Worshipful Master throughout the years 1837, 1838 and 1839, and was succeeded in 1840 by William Steffey, who had served the previous two years as Secretary. Jacob Nitzel was elected Treasurer in 1840, succeeding Jacob Wolf. Nitzel served as Treasurer till 1847, when the Lodge moved to Hagerstown the first time, and William Steffey again served as Secretary from 1841 till the time Hagerstown became the seat of the Lodge.

In the Grand Lodge report for May, 1839, we encounter the following significant and encouraging resolution:

Resolved, that permission be hereby granted to Friendship Lodge No. 84 at Williamsport to form a Masonic procession on St. John's day next.

This is the first mention made of Friendship Lodge since it was constituted, aside from its reports to the Grand Lodge.

Following the above resolution we find this minute:

Resolved, that the Board of Governors have the banners of the Grand Lodge repaired and loan the same, together with other regalia of the Grand Lodge

to Friendship Lodge No. 84 at Williamsport, to be used by them in their procession on St. John's day next.

Turning to the Lodge minutes we learn that

the Lodge opened on Saturday evening June 22, in the first degree, charge and prayer, and will stand open until after the procession on Monday, June 24. The craft has been called from labor to refreshment till Monday morning next at half past nine o'clock, when the Brothers will assemble to form in procession.

Monday morning 24th of June, half-past nine o'clock. The Lodge was called from refreshment to labor, when we were joined by a number of Brethren from a distance, and from the neighboring Lodges, and the weather being so unfavorable the procession did not move till late in the afternoon, when it proceeded to the Lutheran Church and listened to an eloquent discourse delivered by Brother J. E. Jackson of Winchester, Virginia.

That was evidently a gala day in Williamsport. At that period our ancient Brethren celebrated the two Saints John days with fitting pomp, as evidenced by the preparations made for this particular occasion, in which they received the cooperation and encouragement of the Grand Lodge. Saints John days were seldom celebrated by them on the Sabbath, since, in addition to attending divine service, they usually also repaired to a tavern, partook of a feast and paraded through the principal streets of the town.

Joseph Hollman served as Worshipful Master during the years 1841, 1842, 1843 and 1844, and was succeeded by Thomas A. Boullt, who continued as Master for eight consecutive years, a period longer than that in which any other individual has held the office in question during the entire history of the Lodge.

All the minutes for 1844 are written on loose sheets, which are still intact. During the years 1845 and 1846, no meetings were held. The Lodge was, apparently, moribund during these years, but

revived again in February, 1847, when we find it holding meetings in Hagerstown; this by virtue of a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge in November, 1846, authorizing Friendship Lodge to meet at Williamsport and Hagerstown alternately, "or otherwise as the members may see fit." This resolution remained in force until 1864, when it was superseded by another fixing the place of meeting as Hagerstown only. The Lodge was unrepresented at the Grand Lodge at both communications in 1845. In the 1842 report to the Grand Lodge the membership had dropped back to fifteen; it shows also that six members had withdrawn and four were suspended.

This whole period was one of vicissitudes. One year the Lodge would seem to flourish, but the next would find it almost, if not quite, dormant.

Indicative of the dire straits in which it labored during the forties, we find the Grand Lodge passing a resolution at the May communication, 1847, to the effect:

that, the dues of Friendship Lodge No. 84 due prior to the present communication of this Grand Lodge be remitted and that the returns made to the present communication be accepted as the return of members belonging to said Lodge No. 84 now.

There are many interesting and unusual incidents recorded in these early minutes. The Lodge, for example, always opened and did all its work (with the exception, of course, of conferring the second and third degrees) in the first degree. The first they usually recorded in the minutes is couched in language of this nature: "An entered apprentice Lodge opened in due form (or ample form) charge and prayer."

It was not unusual for the Lodge to receive a petition, ballot upon it, and confer the first, and sometimes also the second degree, on the same evening; in one instance, on March 10, 1838, the second and third degrees were conferred on two brethren in the course of one meeting. On one occasion, we find the Lodge called from labor to refreshment for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. Again, we notice that everything was done "on motion"; the Lodge was opened and closed, and petitions were

voted upon, "on motion" all of which is very unusual in our day. The initiation fee in the early days was ten dollars for the first degree, six dollars for the second degree, and eight dollars for the third degree. The annual dues were two dollars. At frequent intervals the Lodge would go into the Past Masters degree and confer that degree upon one or more Master Masons. This was done several times a year, the degree being conferred sometimes upon those who had just recently been raised.

The regular meeting nights were fixed for the Thursday before full moon. This was done, according to information received from Grand Secretary George Cook, in order to give those members living at a distance an opportunity to go to and from Lodge meetings by moonlight over the almost impassable roads.

CHARLES H. OHR.

The man to attain the greatest prominence in Masonic circles, raised by the Lodge during this period, was Brother Dr. Charles H. Ohr, who later moved to Baltimore and served from 1849 to 1851 as Grand Master of Masons in Maryland. He received the degrees in Friendship Lodge in 1839, and made his first appearance in the Grand Lodge in 1840. Two years later, he demitted from Friendship Lodge in order to organize Tonoloway Lodge No. 86 at Hancock, of which he was Worshipful Master for two years, Shortly after this he moved to Baltimore and assisted in the resuscitation of Washington Lodge No. 3. of which he became Master. Tonoloway did not thrive after Brother Ohr's departure, and in 1840 it ceased to exist.

In 1846 Brother Ohr, with others, organized Adherence Lodge No. 88 in Baltimore, and of this he became first Worshipful Master. In 1847 he moved to Cumberland and brought about the resuscitation of Cumberland Lodge No. 61, which had been dormant for some years, becoming its Master. It will thus be seen that Brother Ohr was Master of no less than four Lodges. He was Grand High Priest for the years 1868 to 1871, inclusive.

CONDITIONS FROM 1826 TO 1839.

In studying Masonic Conditions from 1826 to 1836, the wonder is that Friendship Lodge was able to survive at all, in view of its recent organization. When it is realized that many of the stronger and older Lodges could not stem the tide in the early thirties, amazement increases on finding Friendship, the infant, keeping her head above water and if not progressing, at least holding her own.

At the beginning of 1830, there were thirty-six Lodges in Maryland, the membership of which consisted of men of character and intelligence. The Fraternity appeared to be on a firm basis and so secure that nothing could check its onward career. But, says Schultz in his *History of Freemasonry in Maryland*,

shortly after 1830 great apathy became apparent among the membership, and to so great an extent that it was with the utmost difficulty a sufficient number of members could be obtained at the Lodge meetings to transact routine business.

This indifference and apathy continued until one Lodge after another was compelled to surrender its charter: or failing to be represented at the communications of the Grand Lodge thereby forfeited its Charter, and by the end of the year 1839 there were but thirteen active working lodges in the Jurisdiction and they had a membership of less than three hundred;

of these Friendship Lodge No. 84 was one of the stalwarts. This great decline in Maryland, and even greater regression in some other Jurisdictions, was the result of what is known in Masonic history as the Morgan excitement, a full account of which is found in the beginning of volume 3 of Schultz's *History of Freemasonry in Maryland*. Suffice it here to explain, that in 1826 one William Morgan of Batavia, New York, published a pretended Exposition of Masonry, which attracted at the time more attention than it deserved. Morgan soon after disappeared, and the Masons were charged by some enemies of the Order with having removed him by foul means. What was the real fate of Morgan has never been ascertained. There are

various myths of his disappearance, and subsequent residence in other countries. They may or may not be true, but it is certain that there was no evidence of his death that would be admissible in a Court of Law. He was a man of questionable character and dissolute habits, and his enmity to Masonry is said to have originated from the refusal of the Masons of LeRoy, New York, to admit him to membership in their Lodge and Chapter.

Morgan's disappearance afforded a wonderful opportunity for the enemies of Masonry.

Large funds were soon raised with which anti-Masonic papers were established, citizens' meetings were held and addressed by political opportunists who made of it political issues to suit their own selfish purpose. Anti-Masonic feeling and excitement spread like wild fire through New York, Pennsylvania and New England, and later through Maryland and other sections of the Country. In New York the membership of the Fraternity dwindled from twenty thousand in 1826, to three thousand in 1836. In 1833, one hundred and ten charters were forfeited or rescinded by the Grand Lodge of that Jurisdiction alone. Conditions in New York were, to a greater or less degree, typical of conditions elsewhere in the Country. It required about ten years for the feeling and excitement thus engendered, to run its course; but about 1836, the excitement began to die down when the period of re-establishment and reconstruction began, and the Fraternity soon had itself again established on a firm foundation.

The effect of this excitement was not seriously felt in Maryland until 1831. In September of that year, the Anti-Masons held a convention in Baltimore and nominated as its Presidential candidate William Wirt, a Baltimore lawyer and one of the most distinguished attorneys in the Country. After this event, of course, the excitement throughout the State increased markedly.

In June, 1831, Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, who for years kept the dispute at white heat, appeared in Hagerstown and delivered one of his impassioned Anti-Masonic speeches. This speech seems to have had a great effect upon the local Masons, for both Mount Moriah Lodge at Hagerstown and Ureka Lodge at Boonsboro went out of existence at about this time.

Brother Schultz says of Friendship Lodge:

It manfully withstood the Anti-Masonic excitement, that swept so many of its sister Lodges into oblivion, and is today (1885) in a healthy and thriving condition.

CHAPTER V

FROM 1847 TO 1858 - THE PERIOD OF LETHARGY.

This was a period of desperation for the Lodge. The minutes of the meetings of the early forties show great apathy among the members. Applications were few and infrequent and the dues hard to collect. Several times, on motion, committees were appointed to interview members and collect back dues, but apparently to no avail, for no reports were ever made by the committees. Then, as we have seen, for two years, 1845 and 1846, the Lodge ceased to function altogether.

In the minutes of the last meeting in December, 1844, just before the Lodge lay dormant for two years, appears the following:

After considerable discussion by the members of the Lodge in regard to the future welfare and prosperity of the Lodge, Brother Boullt offered the following resolution.

Unfortunately, the resolution was written on a separate piece of paper which is missing. We do not know, therefore, what it contained. Evidently, however, it was of a nature intended to arouse the Lodge out of its existing lethargy.

The next item is the resolution mentioned in the preceding chapter, passed by the Grand Lodge in 1846, and authorizing the Lodge to hold its meetings at Williamsport or Hagerstown alternately, or otherwise as seemed fit.

In the meantime the Lodge moved to Hagerstown, and the first minutes are dated February 13, 1847, Hagerstown, Maryland. This was a special meeting held in Odd Fellows Hall-Thomas A. Boullt, Worshipful Master; William Steffey, Secretary; and John

Nitzel, Treasurer; the same officers elected in 1845, we see, were still serving. Upon motion, for this particular meeting that portion of the by-laws requiring the payment of two dollars for brethren to enter on demit, was dispensed with. Eleven former members of Mt. Moriah Lodge immediately signed their names as members of Friendship Lodge.

At the next meeting, held March 6, 1847, Otho Holland Williams was elected Worshipful Master; William H. Handey, Secretary; and C. Hilliard, Treasurer; the last mentioned was re-elected each year till 1853. In June, 1847, William H Handey resigned as Secretary and was succeeded by Andrew G. Boyd, who held the office until 1853. In August, 1847, Otho Holland Williams, Worshipful Master, resigned and was succeeded by Past Master Boullt, who held that office until 1853.

About this same time the by-laws were amended so as to make the fee for the first degree ten dollars, for the second degree four dollars, and for the third degree six dollars.

On September 12, 1848, the Lodge laid the corner stone of the building of the Lyceum Society. At this same period, a tax of two dollars was laid on each of the members for the purpose of paying the Lodge's debts and an invitation was extended to the demitted members to return and aid in the support of the institution.

For a few years after the Lodge moved to Hagerstown it seemed to flourish. But soon the old lethargy was upon it again, petitions failed to come in, dues were hard to collect and interest waned to such an extent that members withdrew, until there were only twenty left. Finally, after the meeting held on March 2, 1850, the Lodge ceased altogether to meet, and it continued to lie dormant till April 22, 1853, when, with the same officers, we find it meeting again in Williamsport. The minutes of this meeting follow immediately after the minutes of March 2, 1850, and read as follows:

A meeting of Friendship Lodge number 84 was held in the Lodge room for the purpose of electing officers and reviving the Lodge in Williamsport.

Thomas A. Boullt was still Worshipful Master.

The Lodge proceeded to the election of its officers viva voce, to serve until the next general election. William Steffey was elected Worshipful Master, William Crosby, Senior Warden, and A. Shoop, Junior Warden.

No Secretary or Treasurer was chosen, but later John Nitzel was elected Treasurer and Samuel Cyester, Secretary, all of whom continued in office without re-election, till July 17, 1858, when the Lodge was again revived in Hagerstown, this time permanently.

The Lodge functioned in Williamsport for almost two years, or until February 17, 1855, from which date it again lay dormant till July 17, 1858.

During these years of its second sojourn in Williamsport the Lodge did almost nothing, on the whole it was a very disastrous period in its history. Fortunately, however, there were a few faithful ones who preserved the charter and bylaws and held themselves together as a lodge until the noonday sun should again break through the clouds and fill the hearts of the apathetic with enough Masonic light to entice them forth from their slumbers to carry on again till a brighter day should send them on toward the century milestone.

CHAPTER VI

FROM 1858 TO 1887 - THE PERIOD OF APATHY.

This period, beginning July 17, 1858, finds Friendship Lodge, with seventeen members, back in Hagerstown, where she has since remained. By 1860, the number has increased to fifty, and to eighty-nine by 1865; from this year there is again a gradual decrease, until the end of the period sees her with a membership of only fifty.

During the early years of the Civil War, as at the beginning of all wars, the Lodge was in a very flourishing condition. There were many initiations, and dues came easily. But by the end of the war the usual reaction had set in, money was scarce, applications few, and there was again the old struggle to keep afloat. The close of the war found Washington County almost bankrupt. The greatest loss had come through the change in currency. Debts had been contracted in currency worth fifty cents on the dollar and payment had to be made approximately on a gold basis. Thus, hundreds of debtors found their debts had doubled when they fell due.

Specie payment was stopped in 1860, and was not resumed until 1879, after more than eighteen years. This naturally, had its effect on the Lodge. Applications were few and dues were simply uncollectible.

The Lodge, realizing conditions, was extremely lenient toward members, accepting their notes from time to time in payment of dues and at frequent intervals remitting them *in toto*. Thomas A. Boultt, who was Treasurer from July, 1858, to July, 1874, was most zealous and industrious in striving to prevent members from falling in arrears and was unremitting in this effort. It is difficult to say what might have been the result, had a less fore-bearing and less tactful person had charge of this delicate matter during this period. But the Lodge managed to survive these years of difficulties, as it survived all other trials.

This was the last period of extreme depression that has befallen the Lodge, although the greater part of the first sixty years of her existence, when Friendship Lodge had almost exclusive jurisdiction in Washington County, were marked by constant struggle.

Immediately upon removal of the Lodge to Hagerstown for the last time, each Brother voluntarily contributed five dollars for the purpose of giving it a proper start. This indicates that at this time the Treasury was not functioning. The meeting nights were changed from Thursday before full moon to the first and third Mondays of the month. The rooms were located in the New Building" at the "Southeast" corner of Public Square-probably the building which is now occupied by the Gas Company.

The first mention in the minutes of any candidate undergoing an examination before being passed or raised occurs in the record of the meeting of June 25, 1860. From this the conclusion may be drawn that prior thereto either this provision was not required or was not enforced. At this same meeting the members decided that they should attire themselves Masonically, and the Secretary was ordered to purchase six dozen white aprons, which was accordingly done.

On April 19, 1864, a Lodge of sorrow was held because of the assassination of President Lincoln. The Brethren at that time undoubtedly believed that President Lincoln was a member of the craft for, among other things, they say in the resolution:

We are called to mourn as a nation the loss of its great light and head, and as a fraternity the death of a beloved Brother who in every relation of life has exhibited in bold relief the Tenets of our profession, and furnished to the craft a practical exemplification of the cardinal Virtues; who has honored Masonry by a life spotless in purity, abundant in faith, pristine in hope and supreme in charity; who not only as an individual but also in the highest walks of political life, has not forgotten the cardinal principles of his faith and profession as a Mason.

Resolved that the lodge room be draped in mourning for sixty days, and the members of the

Lodge wear for thirty days the usual badge of respect for a departed Brother.

Those Brothers may possibly be correct in stating that the beloved and lamented President was a member of the craft, but it seems to be the consensus of present day writers and investigators that Lincoln never became a member of the Fraternity which he regarded so highly.

In 1863, Friendship furnished to the Grand Lodge its Junior Grand Warden in the person of Andrew K. Stake. His installation in that office took place in Friendship Lodge in December of that year.

On September 27, 1865, there was raised in the Lodge a young man who was destined to have the honor of being the oldest living member of Friendship at the celebration of her hundredth anniversary—General John R. King, now living in the Preston Apartments, in Baltimore. Immediately after he had been mustered out of service at the close of the war, on July 5, 1865, General King filed his application for initiation into Masonry. On September 27, 1927, he will have completed sixty-two years as a Master Mason. May he enjoy many, many happy birthdays and may his remaining years be overflowing with joy.

About this time the affairs of the Lodge were not flourishing, for a committee was appointed

to investigate the various causes which are now at work in producing ill feelings among the Brethren and causing an indifference and want of attendance to the best interests of the Lodge, and to consider and report to the Lodge for its consideration of the best mode of correcting these evils and placing the members on terms of friendly regard and the Lodge on a firm and safe basis.

What may have been the trouble we do not know, for the committee never reported. The difficulties, however, were evidently adjusted, for during the next five years the Lodge more than held its own. But later, the Lodge again almost suffered shipwreck because of bad feeling between the higher officers. Without the knowledge of

the Master, the Senior Warden called a special meeting to confer degrees, and performed other insubordinate acts which led to an open breach between them. Happily, this was the only occasion in the entire history of the Lodge that any conflict occurred among the officers; but, like other troubles, this, too, soon passed by, and all went well again.

On October 9, 1872, Friendship Lodge laid the corner stone of the new Court House, which is still standing. This was made a memorable occasion.

Edward Stake, was Worshipful Master and later had the honor of presiding over the Circuit Court for Washington County. He appointed his immediate predecessor, Andrew K. Syester, as marshal. Masons from many adjoining Lodges attended, as well as a number of Brethren from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Door-to-Virtue Lodge of Westminster recorded this in their minutes of the month:

On October 3, 1872, the Lodge received and accepted an invitation from Friendship Lodge, No. 84, Hagerstown, to participate in the laying of the corner-stone of a new Courthouse in that city. The ride across the mountains, in the beautiful autumnal weather, will long be remembered by those of our Brethren who took part in that ceremonial.

The minutes reveal the fact that on occasion seriousness gave way to levity. They indulged in fun and jollity then as we do now, and this, better than anything else, shows the good fellowship existing among the Brethren.

In 1872, a committee was appointed to revise the by-laws of the Lodge. The Committee in due time made their report. Article I, Section I, provided for the holding of the regular meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Article III, Sections 2 and 4, provided that the Secretary and Tyler should receive two dollars and one dollar, respectively, for each regular meeting.

A Brother moved to amend Section I of Article I, by substituting every Wednesday in lieu of the first and third

Wednesdays, and to amend Sections 2 and 4 of Article III by decreasing the pay of the Secretary and Tyler by one-half. Another Brother immediately offered an amendment to limit the regular meetings to the third Wednesday only, and still another to the effect that the pay of the Secretary and Tyler be doubled. It does not appear that any of these amendments came to a vote, and the by-laws were finally adopted as offered. No doubt, however, the members indulged in plenty of fun among themselves, and probably at the expense of the Worshipful Master.

The minutes at this same time show also that there were fifty-four members, more than two-thirds of the total membership, in arrears in their dues, to the total amount of six hundred and forty-five dollars; some of these delinquencies extend for as long a period as eight years. It is easy to understand why the effort was made to obtain notes from the members to cover their dues. Nevertheless, this same year closed with a balance in the treasury of over three hundred and fifty dollars, showing praiseworthy frugality with the small receipts.

In 1876, the Tyler appears to have been very remiss in his duties, for we find this recorded:

The Secretary was instructed by the Worshipful Master to notify the Tyler that regular communications would be held in the future and that his attention to the Lodge must be given.

In 1880, the regular meeting nights were fixed for the second and fourth Mondays of each month. With the exception of a short period, the meeting nights have remained the same down to the present time.

A motion was made and carried in 1887 that a collection be taken up at each regular and special communication for the purpose of purchasing a library. Evidently, however, the Brethren did not take very kindly to this proposal, for, more than four years later, it was moved and carried that the library fund in the hands of the Secretary, amounting to six dollars and sixty-three cents be turned into the Lodge treasury.

During the period covered by this chapter some of the most prominent citizens of the County and State served the Lodge as Worshipful Master. Among these were Andrew K. Stake who also served one term as Junior Grand Warden; Andrew K. Syester, Associate Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, served his term during the time he was Attorney General of Maryland, and who is reputed to have been one of the most brilliant lawyers this State ever produced; William McK. Keppler, for many years Clerk of the Court; Edward Stake, who was Master in 1873, in 1875 and again in 1882, his Masonic activity continuing throughout his entire life; Dr. J. McPherson Scott, one of the most prominent physicians of his day, served for the years from 1876 to '79; William K. Hoffman, the oldest living Past Master of the Lodge, completed the unexpired term of Isaac Lowenstein, who was the only Master of the Lodge to die while in office. Brother Hoffman was then elected and served as Master the following year, 1886, and was followed in 1887 by J. Frank Miller, also still living.

John Cook, who was elected Secretary in January, 1865, and served to January, 1874, was by far the best and most faithful Secretary the Lodge has had until this time. He missed very few meetings and kept a very excellent record of the Lodge proceedings. He died February 4, 1874, and was buried with Masonic Rites and Ceremonies. Since his incumbency the Lodge has been very fortunate, with the exception of one or two very short periods, in having excellent and faithful Secretaries.

The officers of Friendship Lodge have always been elected annually, with the exception of the four years from 1872 to 1875, inclusive, when they were elected semi-annually, but the officers elected even then were usually retained in office for a full year.

This period closed with the blackest incident in all of Friendship's history. But, be it said at the outset and to the credit of the Worshipful Master serving at the time the trouble began, he came through the difficulties to the close of his term with his ermine as unsullied as before the unfortunate occurrence. No stigma has ever attached to J. Frank Miller for anything that occurred during his term of office.

It appears that in 1887 the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown, from whom the Lodge had been renting for a number of years, served notice to vacate its Lodge room, on the expiration of the lease on April 1, 1888.

Thereupon the Lodge determined either to buy or to build its own home. To this end, a committee was appointed to arrange for and hold a fair for the purpose of raising part of the necessary funds. Upon application, the Grand Master gave his consent to the project, but forbade the Lodge to solicit subscriptions outside the State. Accordingly, the committee in charge proceeded with their arrangements. This they did by taking the entire matter into their own hands and conducting it as they saw fit. Shortly afterwards, the Grand Master began to receive letters from other Grand Masters throughout the Country, calling his attention to a circular issued by Friendship Lodge in which were set forth the advantages of a grand lottery scheme. Lotteries in those days were greatly in vogue, but in so far as the Masons were concerned, they were in direct conflict with the regulations of the Grand Lodge and the orders of the Grand Master. Immediately the Grand Master ordered the Lodge to recall the circulars and to refund the money received through this agency. The attitude of the Lodge as a whole was correct, but unfortunately the tail proved able to wag the dog, and the Lodge was powerless with a Committee who refused or neglected to obey the order of the Grand Master. This latter officer ordered the Lodge to deal with the committee according to Masonic Law; but this, also, failed of results. He then deputed his representatives at Hagerstown to arrest the Charter of the Lodge. This was done shortly after the regular communication of the Lodge held on March 12, 1888. On the page following the minutes of the above mentioned meeting is this entry: "Charter taken away by Grand Lodge."

At the May communication, 1888, of the Grand Lodge the whole matter was referred to the Grievance Committee, which immediately preferred charges against all the members of the "fair committee." Evidence was adduced and the case submitted to the Grand Lodge at its November communication, when two of the committee were expelled, two suspended for two years and two for six months.

As the Secretary of the Lodge was himself a member of the "fair committee," the minutes naturally contain little or nothing with reference to this matter. The statements herein recorded have been gleaned almost wholly from the Grand Lodge reports of the time. The Charter was held by the Grand Lodge until June 13, 1889. With its return, the next period opens, considered in Chapter eight.

CHAPTER VII

THE GRAND OLD MAN OF FRIENDSHIP LODGE.

In 1841, a man living and transacting business in Hagerstown, petitioned Friendship Lodge, then located in Williamsport, for membership. His name appears several times in the minutes of the meetings before the filing of his petition, and he was present at several of the meetings prior to this event. We may, therefore, conclude that he had previously been made a Mason in some other Lodge, probably in Mount Moriah Lodge, which later ceased to exist. From the start he took an active part in the affairs of the Lodge and seldom missed a meeting. Thomas A. Boult never lost his interest in the Lodge, and he played a very prominent part in its affairs until his death in October, 1876, at the age of about seventy-five. Indeed, one wonders whether there would be any Friendship Lodge No. 84 today had it not been for him.

He was the shining light and guiding star of the Lodge throughout the many difficult periods from the date of his connection with it down to the time shortly before his death. In 1845, he was elected Master and continued to fill this office to 1853. When the Lodge first came to Hagerstown in 1847, Thomas A. Boult came with it as its Worshipful Master, and when the Lodge again went back to Williamsport in 1853, Thomas A. Boult was there also in evidence, still as its Worshipful Master. Whether it met in Williamsport or in Hagerstown, he was always at the meetings and helpful in the solution of its difficulties. He gave most freely of his time, money and effort to hold together the Lodge which he so dearly loved. When in 1858 the Lodge finally came back to Hagerstown to remain, Brother Boult was again elected its Master, but at once resigned and was immediately elected Treasurer, which position he filled to July, 1874. Practically throughout the fifties, he was Grand Inspector for Washington County, proof of the esteem in which he was held by the Grand Lodge. He very seldom missed a communication of the Grand Lodge, and he was made a member of almost every Lodge committee appointed during the period of his

treasurership. Undoubtedly, he saved the life of the Lodge on many occasions during the perilous times that constantly recurred during his membership. Whenever the Lodge had any task to perform which called for unusual tact, Thomas A. Boultt was unfailingly the man to be called upon. He never seemed to lose patience and seldom fell short in what he attempted to accomplish.

In addition to his Lodge work, Brother Boultt took a great interest in community affairs. According to the Land Records in the Clerk's office for Washington County, he was at one time a man of considerable property. He had a prepossessing appearance, was of stately build and wore long flowing whiskers. His residence was on the west side of South Potomac Street, a few doors south of Antietam, and for many years he conducted the leading jewelry store of the town. The store property, which he owned, was located on West Washington Street, next to the site now occupied by Hays Brothers store and on part of the lot upon which now stands Eyerly's Department Store.

From 1850 to 1856, Brother Boultt was a director of the Hagerstown Bank, and in 1860 he became the first President of the Mechanics Loan and Savings Bank. In 1865, 1866 and 1868, he was a member of the City Council, and in 1865 was elected President of the School Board of the County.

Nothing better indicates his prominence in the community, and the regard in which he was held by the Grand Lodge, than the fact that when, in 1867, arrangements were being made for the dedication of the National Cemetery at Antietam, Brother Boultt was made chairman of one of the most important committees, and as such, invited the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers to be present and to lay the corner stone of the monument, an invitation which was accepted. As this ceremony occurred in Washington County, so near to Hagerstown, it is of sufficient local interest to justify us in quoting the full account of it from Schultz's *History of Freemasonry in Maryland*, Volume 3, page 741:

The Grand Lodge accepted the invitation, and Brothers Jas. M. Anderson, Frederick Fickey, Jr., Hiram D. Musselman, Thos. A. Cunningham and John M. Miller, were appointed a committee to make all the

necessary arrangements. In accordance with the arrangements made by the committee, the Grand Lodge assembled at Masonic Hall the morning of the 17th October, 1867, and accompanied by about two hundred brethren of the city lodges, escorted by a detachment of Knights Templar under command of Sir Knight George R. Coffroth, marched to Camden Street Station, where they were joined by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and took a special train for Keedysville. Upon their arrival at this village, they were met by the Brethren of Friendship Lodge, No. 84, and Eureka, No. 105, of Sharpsburg, under the marshalship of Brother Thomas A. Boullt. It was designed to form a procession at this point under the direction of Brother John R. Kenley, Marshal in chief, and march to the Cemetery, a few miles distant; but a violent thunder storm arose, and only the Grand Officers and a few of the Brethren were able to reach the ground.

At about high twelve, Grand Master Coates, assisted by Bro. Francis Burns, Deputy Grand Master, Lawrence Sangston, Senior Grand Warden, Edward Jordon, as Junior Grand Warden, Jacob H. Medairy, Grand Secretary, Fredk. Fickey, Jr., Grand Treasurer, and George F. Blinsinger, Grand Marshal, laid the foundation stone of the Monument in due and ancient form.

Among the distinguished Masons present was President Andrew Johnson, in the regalia of a Master Mason.

In the afternoon the Cemetery was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, in the presence of a large assemblage of distinguished personages. Among them, the President and his Cabinet, Foreign Ministers, Officers of the Army and Navy, Governor Thomas Swann and Staff, Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania, Governor Fenton, of New York, The Independent Order of Odd Fellows and other civic

associations, and 5,000 Union Soldiers. The oration was delivered by Ex-Governor A. W. Bradford. Addresses were also delivered by President Johnson, Governors Geary and Swann, and others.

CHAPTER VIII

FROM 1889 TO 1900 - THE PERIOD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

This period begins with the returning of the Charter on June 13, 1889. During the fifteen months that the charter was held by the Grand Lodge many of the excellent Brethren, and those who were innocent of any wrong intentions, were busily engaged in making amends for the action by which the "fair committee" had brought the Lodge into its unenviable position. Finally the Grand Master, being convinced that a very large majority of Masons in Hagerstown were sincere, conscientious men, who had the proper regard for the Ancient Landmarks and Traditions of the Fraternity, returned the charter under the most imposing and pleasant conditions. The Grand Master and practically all the other Grand Lodge officers came to Hagerstown, bringing with them the cherished Charter. The minutes state:

"the Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge, being announced, were admitted and received with the Grand Honors. The Grand Master assumed the East and the Grand Officers their respective stations. The Grand Master expressed the gratification, he and the Grand Officers felt, for the opportunity of visiting the Lodge under the circumstances."

After the Lodge closed, the members and distinguished visitors adjourned to the Hotel Hamilton, where a sumptuous banquet was served, a complete description of which was contained in the Daily News the next day. One learns from this report that the menu boasted some thirty different courses and beverages, among which latter are found such refreshing items as Kümmel, Topaz Sherry, Claret, Champagne, Roman Punch and Brandy. The extent of the menu and the nature of the items show that the Brethren were

as hungry for physical nourishment as they were for Masonic stimulus after fifteen months of deprivation.

Aside from the stigma attaching to the withdrawal of the Charter, later developments show that this action on the part of the Grand Lodge had a most stimulating effect on the welfare of old Friendship. It brought the members to their senses and seemed to infuse new life into them. Immediately they settled down to work for the good of the Lodge first, and of the individual members second. Peace and harmony prevailed, applications were plentiful, and at last they found themselves on the threshold of a period of prosperity and well being, which have continued to the present time. The Lodge accomplished much more in the next ten or eleven years than it had in its entire previous sixty years. The membership for the first time constantly increased, never receding, and jumped from about fifty in 1889 to one hundred and sixty-four in 1900.

For many years there had been much talk of building, but this had proved mere talk. Now they proceed to act. A building committee was appointed, and without collateral efforts, each year the Lodge treasury turned over to this committee its surplus to be invested by it, and designated as a "building fund." It is most interesting to read the annual reports of this building committee and to see the building fund grow from nothing in 1889, to more than five thousand dollars in less than ten years, during a period when the initiation fees were only thirty dollars and the annual dues only four dollars. The pages of the minutes are entirely devoid of any signs of dissensions or hardships; instead, they are filled with evidences of peace and harmony among the Brethren; all seemed to be bending every effort to expand and enlarge the building fund. They were now working for a definite objective, delighted to watch their little nucleus increase. Little or no money was spent unnecessarily and banquets were unknown. In fact, during the whole history of the Lodge, the first occasion on which degree work was followed by a banquet was in February, 1891--even then the individual members bore the cost. So much difficulty, however, was experienced in collecting for it afterwards, that when a few weeks later, two brothers were raised, they themselves gave a banquet to the Lodge at the Franklin House. These newly raised members had, in the meantime, possibly heard of the recent experience of the Lodge, and desired to preclude any further embarrassment to it on their account.

An idea of the Masonic enthusiasm prevailing during this period can be gained from the fact that in June, 1895, the Lodge accepted an invitation from Hiram Lodge No. 21 at Winchester, Virginia, at a distance of forty miles from Hagerstown, conjointly to attend divine services in the former city. About seventy-five members made the trip by special train, returning at 11:30 P. M. the same night. One is tempted to wonder how many of the present members would undertake such a pilgrimage, when out of a membership of over five hundred we now have difficulty in persuading seventy-five of the number to attend church as a Lodge, although in their own city. By this it is not intended to imply that members do not now attend divine service, but certainly they do not do so, in respectable numbers, with the Lodge. Many, unfortunately, feel indisposed to miss their own particular service twice a year in order to join with the Lodge on these infrequent occasions.

It was near the end of this period that the present Masonic Temple, located at fifty-four South Potomac Street, was erected and dedicated. This project was sponsored and carried to completion by Friendship Lodge almost single-handed, at a time when it had a membership of less than one hundred and fifty; the two or three other Masonic bodies were at the time very small in membership and poor in money; besides most, if not all, of their members also belonged to Friendship Lodge, through which body naturally they made their contributions of money and labor.

CHAPTER IX

BUILDING AND DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE.

Several previous attempts had been made by the Lodge to build and own its own home. In fact, as far back as 1842, during a very short period of prosperity, it obtained Articles of Incorporation through a special Act of the Legislature, with an authorized capital Stock of four thousand dollars. A contract with Jacob Shoop was entered into for the purchase of a lot of ground in Williamsport, and the Lodge even bought a quantity of bricks for the erection of the building. But adversity again soon overtook the Lodge, and a motion was made and carried to appoint a committee to dispose of the bricks and to ascertain if Shoop could be induced to release the Lodge from its obligation under the agreement to purchase the lot; this was accomplished.

Another similar effort was made in Hagerstown in 1865, during the peak of the prosperity resulting from the Civil War. On this occasion, they applied to the Legislature and had the Articles of Incorporation amended, by increasing the Authorized Capital to twenty-five thousand dollars. The stock subscription books were opened, and about five thousand dollars worth of stock was subscribed for by the members. But before anything further was accomplished, the wave of prosperity had spent itself and the subscriptions to the stock were cancelled.

A third abortive attempt was made in the late eighties, but before they had proceeded very far the members suddenly found themselves without a Charter, as related in a preceding chapter.

In the final effort, better judgment was exercised as to ways and means. They first proceeded to save up sufficient money with which to make a proper start, and in the meantime maintained a careful watch on all transfers of property, in order to secure the best possible location. Finally, it was learned that the South Potomac Street lot could be bought. Inquiries as to price were made, and it

was found that there was just about enough in the building fund with which to purchase the lot, and this was done at once. After the site had been acquired no time was lost in erecting the temple.

On February 14, 1898, the Worshipful Master appointed a new building committee, consisting of Brothers William P. Lane, Harry K. Startzman, Albert Heard, William K. Hoffman, William H. Ridenour, Rufus M. Hays, Dr. Otho Holland Williams Ragan, John G. Bower, George R. Hutson, Abraham C. Strite, and J. Frank Miller. This committee worked as if with magical powers, and such progress was made that the cornerstone was laid on April 21, 1898, with most impressive Masonic ceremonies; less than a year later, March 8, 1899, the Temple was dedicated.

Most elaborate preparations were made for this occasion. Committees and sub-committees, for every purpose imaginable, were appointed. The invitation Committee was most industrious and left nothing undone to secure the presence of personages of prominence and importance, as is indicated by the following letter recorded among the minutes:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, March 6, 1899.

Mr. George H. Hager, Chairman
Hagerstown, Md.

My Dear Sir:

In the President's behalf I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your favor of recent date, and to express his regret that the pressure of his engagements is such as to prevent his accepting many of the kindly invitations extended to him.

Assuring you however that the President thoroughly appreciates your thoughtful courtesy and with best wishes for the success of the occasion, to which you refer, believe me,

Very truly yours,

George B. Cortelyou,
Ass't. Sec'y. to the President.

It is safe to say that no one ever charged this committee with not endeavoring at least to make the day a brilliant success. The presence of Brother McKinley, then President, would certainly have graced the occasion; the committee probably realized that they could not succeed in securing his attendance, but that did not prevent them from trying.

The Grand Lodge Officers were nearly all present. Friendship Lodge opened on the third floor and proceeded to the Lodge room on the second floor, where the Grand Lodge of Maryland was opened in due form with Grand Master Thomas J. Shryock, presiding.

The Temple was then dedicated with solemn Masonic ceremonies as laid down in the program prepared for the occasion.

A copy of the program was pasted in the minute book. After a magnificent address by Past Grand Master John M. Carter, the Grand Lodge closed.

The informal reception held in the evening from 7 to 10 o'clock, was characterized by one of the local newspapers "as the most brilliant event in local fraternal circles."

The Building Committee is entitled to the everlasting gratitude of the Lodge for their wonderful accomplishment. Every member of the committee was a man of affairs and standing in the community, yet they themselves did not hesitate to perform manual labor on the building about which they were so enthusiastic. They played their part well and their handiwork will stand for ages, even though it was economically done.

CHAPTER X

FROM 1901 TO 1927 - THE PERIOD OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

The interest that was exhibited throughout the previous period became intensified after the completion and dedication of the new temple. As usual under such circumstances, applications were numerous and general prosperity prevailed, which has continued to the present time.

The growth, however, was normal and gradual and the Lodge was as careful in the scrutiny of those it admitted as it had previously been in this respect; indeed, if the preferring of charges is an index, it has been even stricter during the last thirty-eight years (the period of its wonderful growth), for such proceedings have been most rare during these years, whereas in the earlier days such action was not infrequent. The membership increased from one hundred and sixty-four in 1900 to five hundred and sixteen in the early part of 1927—just five hundred more than the Lodge started with one hundred years ago. Friendship Lodge saved her funds, and every dollar she could spare was turned over to the Temple Association to be applied on the mortgage which had been placed on the property at the beginning; this has since been entirely wiped out, to the further credit of the Brothers constituting the Association from time to time.

The initiation fees remained at thirty dollars down till 1914, when they were increased to fifty dollars. In 1922, they were increased to sixty at which figure they still remain. The dues of the Lodge have always been low as compared with many other places. They have never been above the present sum of five dollars per annum; probably as a result of this, it has been necessary to suspend very few members for non-payment of dues. During the last thirty years this has been a very exceptional occurrence in the Lodge.

In 1919, Friendship was again honored by having elected as Junior Grand Warden one of its active young Past Masters, Harry R. Snyder, now a Past Master and member of Hagerstown Lodge No. 217. Brother Snyder, since being Worshipful Master of Friendship Lodge in 1912, has been Grand Inspector of this District.

Since 1914, when our present Grand Master, Warren S. Seipp, was Grand Lecturer, he has been a frequent visitor to the Lodge, conducting Lodges of Instruction, conferring degrees, installing officers, and sometimes being present simply in the capacity of an interested onlooker. In 1917 he installed the officers for the ensuing year. In 1926 he honored the Lodge three times by his presence: on the occasion of the first joint installation of officers ever held in Hagerstown, the installing officer being Gerard Everstine of Cumberland, Assistant Grand Lecturer; in June he was present to observe the Lodge Officers confer the third degree; and again in October, when, before one of the largest Masonic gatherings ever assembled in Washington County, he delivered a magnificent address on the "Symbolism of the Altar." Grand Master Seipp occupies a large place in the hearts of the members of Friendship Lodge.

During the World War, the Lodge did everything in its power to add to the comfort to its members who had enlisted for service under the colors. It was fortunate in losing but one of its members on the field of battle, Brother Herbert A. Ingram, who was killed shortly before the end of the war. The Lodge purchased Liberty Bonds to the full extent of its financial ability and did its whole Masonic and patriotic duty by the Country.

Shortly after the close of the war, the Lodge encouraged a number of the Brethren to organize themselves into a Masonic Choir. The suggestion was acted upon with the result that we now have one of the best choirs to be found anywhere in the State. The Grand Lodge has honored it number of occasions by having it sing at communications. It is in great demand, and its services are always, of course, given free of charge.

During recent years the Lodge has received and accepted invitations to officiate at the laying of the corner stones of important

new structures in the city, among them the New Central Y.M.C.A. and the New High School on Potomac Avenue.

For almost one hundred years Friendship was the only Blue Lodge in Hagerstown.

In 1924, it readily granted its consent, when a number of Brethren sought permission, to organize another Lodge. A dispensation was accordingly applied for and granted by the Grand Master, and in April of that year Hagerstown Lodge was started on its first hundred-year journey. We hope and believe that its path will be smoother than was that of Friendship Lodge. From the beginning, this baby Lodge, now known as Hagerstown No. 217, has been a great success, and it is now a thriving and growing Lodge of about one hundred and twenty-five members.

Early in 1926, Friendship sponsored a movement to purchase a Masonic Library, to be known as the "Masonic Temple Library." The library now consists of several hundred volumes covering every phase of Masonic Literature by the ablest Masonic Writers. The aim has been to buy all of the best Masonic books, and only the best. In the course of a few years we hope to have in this city one of the most complete Masonic Libraries in the State.

And now, at the end of the first century, the Temple Association, the stock of which is owned almost entirely by Friendship Lodge, is making additions and improvements to the temple, the cost of which will probably exceed the original cost of the entire building.

So many Masonic bodies are now using the Temple that more room is imperative. The third floor, which lately has been used as a dining room and kitchen, is being remodeled for use as a Lodge room and the necessary ante-rooms. The first floor, which heretofore had been rented for commercial purposes, is being converted into parlors, music room and a large social or recreation room in the rear. A large banquet hall and auditorium, equipped with stage, cloak room, rest rooms, dressing rooms and kitchen, is being built in the rear of the present Temple, but as a component part of it. The auditorium will be a commodious room one hundred and twenty-four feet long, exclusive of the stage, and capable of seating more than

fifteen hundred people; as it will be available for the holding of ceremonials by the several bodies, for dances and for "ladies' nights," great Masonic activity is expected to, and no doubt will, result from these improvements.

It might be supposed that during the last forty years, while the Lodge was saving up its pennies to pay for a Temple, it had deliberately or of necessity, neglected all charitable activities. But this has not been the case. We do not have in mind its obligations to the unfortunate members and to the widows and orphans of deceased brethren, for these acts are always done in a quiet and inconspicuous manner. The Lodge has always been liberal in this respect, both at times when adversity was upon it as well as when it was in a more fortunate position. In addition, however, it never failed to respond liberally to other worthy calls. It has equipped rooms in Y.M.C.A.'s, and hospitals, at such times as it could ill afford to do so. During the nineties the practice seems to have been in vogue for a Lodge intending to build a new temple to solicit funds from other Lodges, wherever located. The minutes show that the Lodge received many such requests from all parts of the country; almost always it responded by contributing to the extent of its ability. It was also one of the first Lodges to subscribe for a life membership in the George Washington Memorial Association. Its own necessities or misfortunes never seemed to have any effect upon the Lodge, when others were in need or when there was a good cause that bespake its assistance.

A word should be said about three officers now connected with the Lodge. Their long, faithful and efficient service is worthy of commendation by the members.

Each has broken all previous records for length of service and, as all of them are yet comparatively young men, they will no doubt be spared to the Lodge for many more years of useful service. We refer to Brothers Charles E. Johnston, Secretary since January, 1898; Chester R. Hays, Treasurer since January, 1899; and Harry Hutson, Tyler since November, 1899--a trio of devoted and earnest officials.

CHAPTER XI

CONCLUSION.

And now Old Friendship Lodge No. 84 stands on the threshold of her second century. The past hundred years have been a period fraught with vicissitudes, dangers and difficulties, as well as a period of accomplishments; while she began her existence in a most humble and meager way, she is now one of the shining lights in Masonry in Maryland. Old Brother Dr. Boerstler, Grand Inspector, predicted better than he knew when he wrote the following of Friendship one hundred years ago this month:

I cheerfully recommend it as a flourishing scion, which promises soon to become a venerable tree, under whose shade the way-worn and distressed brother may rest and be refreshed.

No prophesy was ever made that has been more completely fulfilled. It now behooves the present generation to preserve the noble traditions of dear old Friendship and to transmit them unimpaired and unsullied through our children and children's children to untold future generations. We hope and pray the Lodge in her second century may not encounter any of the many difficulties that so nearly wrecked her during the past century; to aid in preventing this, let us who rejoice today in the devotion and zeal of those who lived during the past hundred years and guided the destinies of the Lodge, show such loyalty and devotion to her traditions and to Masonry, that those who follow us may rejoice in our fidelity and love for the Land Marks and Regulations of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masonry.

APPENDIX A

FINDING THE LOST TREASURE.

Suppose all records of the establishment and the formation of Washington County were lost; or let us imagine that all the early records of Hagerstown should be mislaid; how valuable those early records would become! This is the exact situation in which Friendship Lodge found herself for many years. From a time beyond the memory of any living member, the first minute book, containing all the Lodge records from the granting of the dispensation to September, 1836, had been missing. One attempting to write a history of Friendship Lodge without the first records—the records of its origin and establishment—fully appreciates the value of those early records, without which authenticity cannot even be approached. This history was completed and ready for the printer when that cherished treasure of the Lodge was found. The printing of the history was obviously delayed a few days in order to make certain revisions in the light of, and in conformity with the information contained in the first minute book.

Schultz in his History printed forty-two years ago, says that “the minutes of Friendship Lodge are nearly complete from 1836.” We know, therefore, that the early minutes were missing as far back as 1885. (Permit it to be said here, that from a study of all the minutes, the only conclusion that can be reached is that the minutes of the Lodge are absolutely complete from 1836, and that the few intervals for which there are no minutes, the Lodge did not function.)

Brother Schultz also informs us

that the minutes of Mt. Moriah No. 33 are in the archives of the Grand Lodge with the exception of a period from 1818 to 1821, which are in possession of Friendship Lodge.

A minute book, covering this period was found among the records of Friendship Lodge. The foregoing information naturally raised a question in the writer's mind-yes several questions. Did Mt. Moriah Lodge turn in her records to the Grand Lodge before Friendship moved to Hagerstown? If not, is it possible that the records of both Lodges were kept together for a time and in returning the minutes of Mt. Moriah, one minute book of that Lodge was retained and the first minute book of Friendship Lodge inadvertently substituted? The author made himself believe that such was the case and sought to solve the questions in that manner. In a desperate effort the facts were presented to that faithful servant of Masonry, Grand Secretary, Brother George Cook. The search was on, and Friendship's greatest Treasure was found in the archives of the Grand Lodge, just one day before the manuscript of this History was to have been placed in the printer's hands.

The minutes of Friendship Lodge are now complete from the first meeting held under dispensation on February 12th, 1827, to the present.

While returning from Baltimore with this Jewel safely and fondly tucked under his arm, the parable of the lost sheep, recorded in the 15th Chapter of Luke, came into the writer's mind with an entirely new meaning:

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.”

