

MASONIC WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' HOME OF TENNESSEE FUND

...compassion should flow from our hearts...

Bobby J. Demott, Grand Historian



Robert F. Henderson, Grand Master

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Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Tennessee Fund**

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Ralph L. Scott, Jr., P.M.
Chairman, Library & Museum Committee**

"To help, aid and assist, and, to the extent of ability, provide for the necessities of Worthy Master Masons, their wives, widows and orphans, is one of the most sacred obligations resting upon every Lodge and upon every Mason who is worthy of the title, which has been conferred upon him." Grand Master Dillahunty, in his address to Grand Lodge in 1846, admonished the Brethren to care for the widow and the orphan noting that the Mason goes to his death with the full assurance that those who depended upon him while he was on earth are left in the hands of faithful Brethren who will provide for their needs.



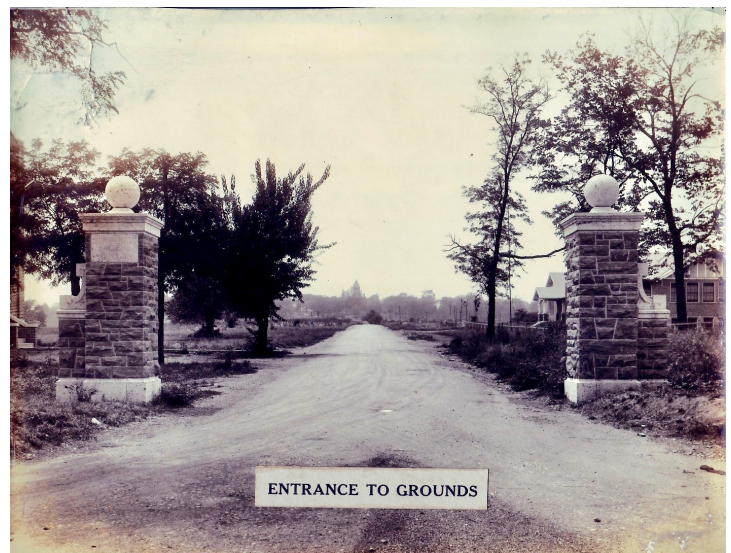
From our first admittance into a Lodge, we are taught that to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, particularly on Masons. Charity is one of the main pillars of the institution and he who is destitute of that noble feeling is unworthy of the name, Mason. We have all taken the solemn obligation and sacred vow to provide relief and assistance to all worth distressed Brothers, their wives, widows and orphans wherever we may find them. They need not find us, we must constantly seek them.

As the number of Masons grew, the burden of caring for the widows and orphans was spread to larger groups. In the first fifty years of existence of the Grand Lodge of

Tennessee, aid to old Masons, widows and orphans came from individuals and from subordinate Lodges, though there was a desire on the part of some Grand Masters that the effort be centralized. Shortly before his death in 1868 Past Grand Master Charles A. Fuller said: "There is but one reason why I would like to live longer, and that is to work for the Masonic Orphans' Home. If I had fifteen years yet to live, I would spend the whole time in that business."

On August 11, 1886 Marcus B. Toney and W. H. Bumpas obtained from the State of Tennessee a Charter of Incorporation for an organization named "Masonic Widow and Orphans Fund and Home." Toney was president and Bumpas, secretary.

A discussion of a Masonic Home in Tennessee appeared in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge in January 1887 when Grand Master Thomas O. Morris praised the Kentucky Masonic Widow and Orphans' Home and encouraged the Tennessee Brethren to do likewise. Toney, the visionary, and Bumpas, the orator, explained the aims and objectives of such a Home. Grand Lodge approved the establishment of such an institution and commended it for favorable consideration and support of the Masons of Tennessee.



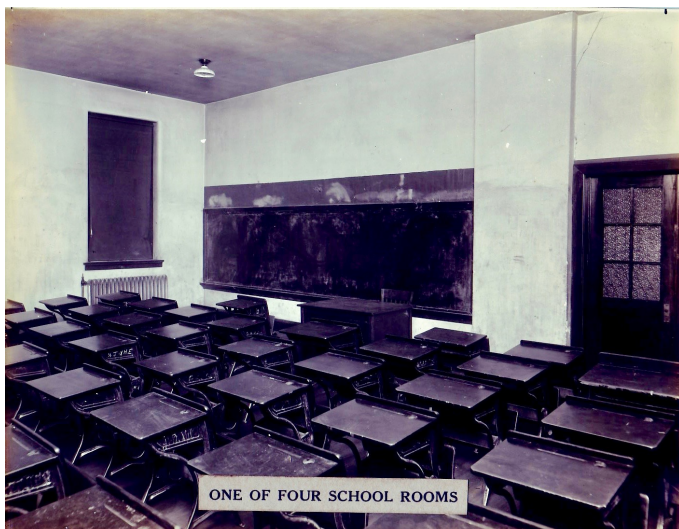
The first donation was a gift of ten acres of land valued at \$5,000 by Colonel Jere Baxter, President of Tennessee Central Railway, who was an Entered Apprentice at that time and later had an subordinate Lodge named in his memory.

Toney noticed the exodus of active Masons onto the rolls of non-affiliates who were looking to Mutual Life Insurance Companies who were supposedly selling insurance to care for the elderly and orphaned. He called for 2,000 Masons to give \$25 each toward the building of a Tennessee Masonic Home. By January 1888, \$10,000 had been raised and Bumpas borrowed \$4,000 from the First National Bank on his own account to get a building started.

On May 12, 1888, Grand Master Henry H. Ingersoll called for a special meeting to be held at Masonic Hall in Nashville on Saturday, June 23, 1888, for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home. On the appointed day a parade was held from the Lodge Hall to Linck's Depot where a special train with twelve coaches awaited. The train proceeded to near the farm of Mr. Jere Baxter, a short distance from the Maplewood Station, and the passengers alighted. The procession moved through fields of growing oats to the site and persons having a part in the ceremonies passed through lines of honor guards to the speaker's platform. President Toney gave an eloquent oration, as did Secretary Bumpas. An excellent feast followed this and the left over food was taken back to Nashville and given to the hungry.



The first building, constructed at a cost of \$30,000 was a four-story brick structure consisting of sixteen rooms measuring 16 X 20 feet, a dining room, kitchen and schoolroom.



Grand Lodge endorsed the Home, but financial support was only from donations by Brethren and friends. For several years the Grand Masters encouraged the subordinate Lodges to hold a festival on or near St. John's Day and forward the proceeds to the Secretary of the Home. In 1892 the Home received a total of \$6,429 in contributions. The Home opened on December 10, 1892 with the admission of Martha E. Ward and her daughters Annie D., 5, Emma D., 4, and Ikey, 2, who were sponsored by Eaton Lodge No. 206, in Gibson County. Also admitted at that same time were Josephine Fitzsimmons, 38 years of age and sons Charles, 8, Edgar, 5, and another son who apparently left the Home before 1899.

Conasauga Lodge No. 396, in Polk County, sponsored them.

By January 1894 there were thirty-four inmates (as they were called at that time); none came from Nashville and only three from middle Tennessee. A school was in operation, the teacher being paid by Davidson County. In a few years a second teacher was added. Mrs. W. E. McCampbell who came once per week donated music instruction. The first death occurred on June 1, 1894, that of Mrs. Priddy, 78 years of age.

In his address to the Grand Lodge on January 31, 1894 Grand Master Bun F. Price discussed the acceptance of the Home as Grand Lodge property, but the Grand Lodge had not been incorporated. Apparently it was operating under an Act passed on January 19, 1846, incorporating the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the State of Tennessee.

In 1894 the incoming Grand Master, Henry Chambers, appointed a committee consisting of George C. Connor, Wilbur F. Foster and Bun F. Price to devise ways and means to permanently endow the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home. Thus 2019 will mark the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the first effort to form a permanent method of financing the Home.



By 1895 there were over 70 inmates at the home and they provided a variety show for the entertainment of the attendees at Grand Lodge, as they did for many years thereafter. Bumpas gave a detailed report of contributions, which amounted to \$42,008 since the project was started.

On January 29, 1896, Grand Master George H. Morgan explained in the annual Grand Lodge session that the Home was a corporation under the laws of the State and that the many Masons across the state were shareholders. He questioned the advisability of the Grand Lodge assuming ownership of the Home. He did advocate a fifty-

cent increase in per capita tax for the Home, which would supply adequate funds to publish a newsletter, which would go to every Mason in the state. Grand Lodge approved a resolution that surplus funds on hand at the end of the year be sent to the Trustees of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, but not to exceed \$6,000. The actual amount transferred that year was \$2,500. Also a resolution was approved that would direct the Committee on Jurisprudence to investigate the best means of raising funds for the Home, and secondly, to give an opinion as to whether the Grand Lodge should own the Home. Secretary Bumpas reported that the total amount of contributions to January 1896 was \$52,112. The academic standing of each student through grade seven was reported in the Proceedings.

In his report on Correspondence in 1896, Henry Ingersoll mentioned that several states were establishing Masonic Homes, and in general, were in favor of a perpetual method of funding. However, many good older Brethren still maintained this was un-masonic, because it was not voluntary or individual, and therefore bad in tendency and practice.

The Committee on Jurisprudence received a letter from Toney and Bumpas on September 4, 1896, which spelled out the amount of money spent on buildings and furniture and the value of other assets.

The Grand Lodge on January 27, 1897, assumed ownership of the Home and the Grand Master and Grand Wardens, or their successors, were designated as Trustees. It further established a "Board of Control" for the management of the Home. This was to consist of seven members, the three Grand Lodge officers noted and four permanent members of Grand Lodge, residents of Davidson County, Tennessee, to be elected each year by the Grand Lodge, to receive no compensation for their services, but to be reimbursed for their actual expenses. Archibald N. Sloan, the incoming Grand Master in 1897 made appointments to the first Board: John C. Kennedy, M. B. Toney, W. J. Wallace and C. H. Eastman.

The Grand Lodge increased the per capita tax to one dollar, of which fifty-cents was designated for the Home. All contributions were to be received by the Grand Secretary who would give an account of the same and forward them to the proper officers of the Home. At that time there were 103 residents of the Home: 37 boys, 45 girls, 17 ladies, 2 teachers, a superintendent and a matron.

The new Board found no uniformity in dress among the inmates. Some were furnished clothes from well-meaning persons and were elegantly dressed, while others were dressed rather shabbily. The Board decided that all should have uniforms, and designated their nature. Each Lodge, when sending a child to the Home, signed an agreement that the Home would not house nor care for orphans after they reached their sixteenth birthday. Several had reached that age and the Lodges were so informed, but not all had notified the Home to return the inmate. This prevented the acceptance of other young children in need of care. The Board, however, recognized that the children were not receiving training to suit them for employment in the outside world.

The Board extended a sincere thanks to two railroad companies for furnishing an engine and coaches to bring the inmates to the Masonic Centennial Celebration. Christmas donations were used to purchase toys, nuts and other goodies, a tradition, which was carried on for many years.

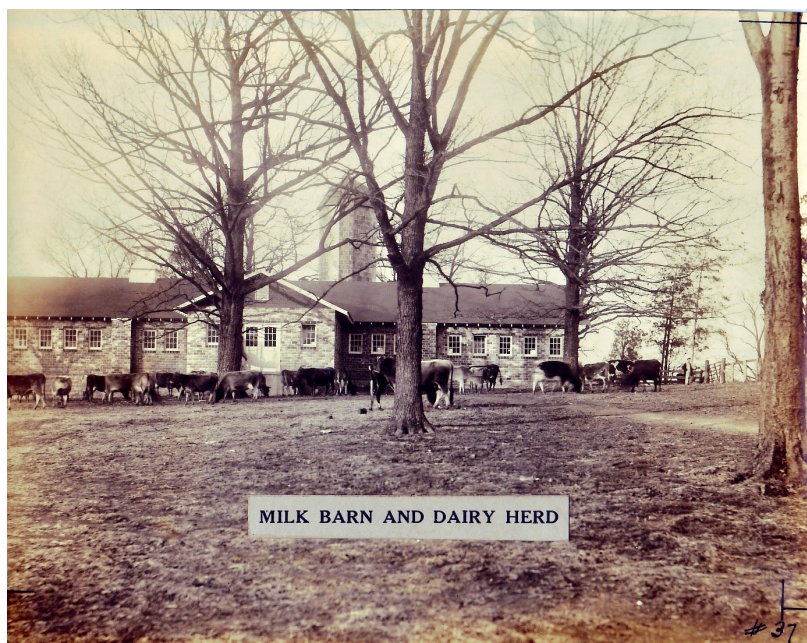
On January 25, 1899, Grand Master Bumpas, who was the co-founder of the Home, reported that on March 5, 1898 he had written a circular calling for voluntary contributions to build a cottage to house additional persons who wanted admittance. The money came in and the building was completed, furnished and occupied before January 1899. He made an appeal for \$2,000 to build a house to accommodate old Masons.



Brother Ben Herman had worked on the establishment of the Home, and at his death, bequeathed \$500, which was used to build a workshop for the training of boys in a machine shop, a building that was named in his memory. Brother Herman's body lies in the Jewish Cemetery in Nashville.

The per capita tax collected for the Home in 1898 was \$7,922. The children of the Home again entertained for a large audience at the Annual Communication and were well received, but Grand Lodge voted to discontinue the entertainment in future years. This however, was reversed in 1901 when Grand Lodge voted to have entertainment from the Home on Wednesday afternoon each year.

Brother Charles H. Goodlet, the Superintendent and Mrs. Goodlet, the Matron, lived at the Home and were given a salary of \$1,020 per year. On July 1, 1899 they tendered their resignation because of the ill health of Mrs. Goodlet. On September 1, 1899 Brother A. H. Landford and Mrs. Landford, of Paris, Tennessee were appointed to these posts at the same salary. Their daughter was a teacher in the Home and received a salary of \$35 per month. Her assistant was paid \$10 per month.



The Home operated a farm and used much of the produce to supply the kitchen and sold some, especially milk, on the Nashville Market.

A detailed inventory of the assets of the Home was listed in the 1899 and several succeeding *Proceedings*, as were the names of the inmates and the Lodges from which they came.

Included in the 1900 expenses of the Home were funeral expenses for two ladies of \$115 and an expenditure of \$8.25 for a washerwoman for the two deceased.

In 1902 the Grand Master suggested that greater care be taken to verify the eligibility of applicants for admission to the Home. Grand Lodge ordered the Grand Treasurer to pay to the Home all money remaining in the Grand Treasury after all debts were paid.

Grand Master John R. Smith, on May 28, 1902 sent out an appeal for funds for the Home, reminding the subordinate Lodges of Edict No. 58 whereby each Lodge was to hold a festival on or about June 24 of each year and to send the proceeds to the Home.

Brother Landford and Mrs. Landford resigned as Superintendent and Matron of the Home in 1902 and Professor Benjamin S. Foster and wife, formerly of Lebanon, Tennessee, were hired to fill these vacancies at the same salary.

The Board, in 1902, considered whether the Home should assume the operation of the school and thus pay the salaries of the teachers, or to ask the County to do it. An agreement was reached whereby each unit would supply one teacher, the Principal would be supplied by the Home and the Board would nominate the other teacher. The Principal was Miss Della Stroud and the assistant, Miss Jennie Alston.

In 1903 the Board of Control, of which Bumpas was chairman, recommended that 100 acres of land adjacent to the original ten acres be purchased with money in the Endowment Fund. The incoming Grand Master appointed a committee of five persons to study the feasibility of such a purchase. The report of this committee in 1904 was that the land was not available. Grand Lodge, however, approved a resolution that the committee should look for land elsewhere and gave it power to take options on land.

In 1905 the committee reported that several options had been taken on land in various parts of the state but that no recommendations were ready. In 1906 the committee still did not have a suggestion as to where the Home should be located, but gave reasons why the Gallatin Pike location was unsatisfactory.

Problems at the Home were related to an inadequate water supply, lack of a sewage disposal system, lack of flush toilets and lack of electricity.

In 1904, E. L. Gregory, Worshipful Master of Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 610 in Maury County, read a resolution asking the Jurisprudence Committee to find a synonym for the word "inmate" as applied to the members of the Home family. The committee proposed the words "wards" and "residents," but the *Proceedings* continued to use "inmate."

Professor B. S. Foster, the Superintendent and his wife, the Matron, resigned in 1905 and Brother W. E. Taylor and his wife were hired but only stayed a few months, being replaced by Professor W. O. Cranor and wife.



Grand Lodge instructed the Board not to erect any further buildings at the Home. Grand Lodge voted to increase the number of persons on the Board to eight, creating five permanent members instead of four.

By 1906 five of the children were taking business courses at Fall's Business College, tuition free, as a result of Brother Fall's generosity, an arrangement, which was continued for several years. On July 4, 1906 a picnic was held at the Home and over \$1,000 was cleared on the project. A septic tank was built to help alleviate the unsanitary conditions of the open field disposal. Two persons ran away from the Home and another was expelled.

The committee to secure more land had correspondence with the owner of adjacent land, who refused to name a dollar amount for which the property could be bought. The committee recommended that a farm be bought elsewhere. Grand Lodge instructed the Board of Control to negotiate further with the owners of the adjacent land and gave the Board authority to offer up to \$10,000 for the land.

The boy's dormitory was enlarged and dedicated on November 15, 1908 by Grand Master Milton H. Price. Several applications were received from invalid widows who were refused admittance because the Home did not have facilities to care for the physically helpless. A resolution was put before Grand Lodge to appropriate \$3,000 for a building that would enable the invalids to be cared for, but it was rejected. Soon after this, Brother Bumpas carried out, a campaign for funds apparently, and the building was built and dedicated on November 15, 1908 by Grand Master Price. Grand Lodge, through the Ways and Means Committee, in 1909 scolded the Board of Control for such action, but in view of the excellent manner in which the Board was carrying on the affairs of the Home, agreed to an expenditure of \$564.56 which was equal to the actual costs of the building above the donations which had been received.

A price of \$12,000 was asked for the adjoining land, \$2,000 more than authorized by Grand Lodge, but the offer was accepted.

In 1909 several flush closets were installed in bathrooms and electricity was installed in several buildings, which did away with kerosene lamps. A Chaplain was put on the payroll to conduct services each Sunday. However, in 1918, in order to economize, the Board dispensed with the services of a Chaplain and in his stead, asked local Lodges and Chapters to hold services on Sunday afternoons.

Mary E. Stone bequeathed to the Home \$500, which was part of a certain property in Arkansas. Legal counsel was obtained and the proceeds were \$450. This, together with Grand Lodge appropriations and other donations, brought the income of the Home to \$51,543 in 1909.

Eli M. Hornbeck, admitted to the Home upon application of Wilsonville Lodge No. 457, was involved in an accident in 1910 in which he, along with other boys, were playing in the laundry. One boy turned on a piece of machinery; Eli's arm was mangled extensively and was amputated.



The Ways and Means Committee found that the Board of Control had over-spent their fund by \$1,769, and cautioned against such practice. The committee did give praise for the untiring efforts of the members of the Board of Control, persons who were receiving no compensation for their efforts.

Grand Master John R. Rison recommended to Grand Lodge that 75 cents per capita tax (an increase of 25 cents) be levied to support the Home and a 25 cent tax be levied for the establishment of an Old

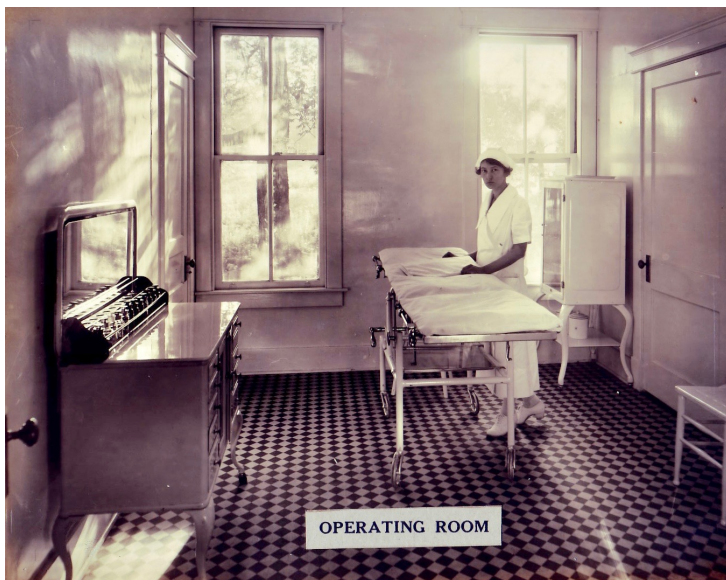
Masons Home, neither of which were approved by Grand Lodge. It did, however, approve a per capita tax of \$1.25, with 75 cents going to the Home, and 50 cents for the expenses of the Grand Lodge.

In 1911 the Home had completed twenty years of service, giving sustenance to 476 widows and orphans. The L. & N. Railway secured a condemnation of a right of way for the purpose of crossing the street leading to the Home, and Grand Lodge instructed the Trustees to sign a deed of gift for the right of way.

An infirmary, built largely from donations from the Order of the Eastern Star, was dedicated during the Annual Communication of 1913.

In 1912 there were three teachers in the school, two being paid by the County. The Board recommended that provisions be made for the teaching of Domestic Science for the girls and Manual Training for the boys, the better to enable them to find employment after they left the Home.

The Postal Service notified the Board that the road from the Pike to the Home must be improved if postal deliveries were to continue. The road was rebuilt.



On August 1, 1912, after seven years of service to the Home, Professor and Mrs. Cranor concluded their services as Superintendent and Matron and Professor and Mrs. R. D. Swain of Alton, Illinois were hired in these posts.

On February 3, 1913 the Board of Control secured a Charter of Incorporation known as "Old Masons' Home Association" and purchased a lot of five acres adjoining the Home for \$667. Grand Master Charles Comstock laid the cornerstone for an Old Mason's Home on November 27, 1913. Grand Lodge approved the reimbursement for the purchase price of the acreage and agreed to accept the property when it is occupied, provided it was free of encumbrances.

Though the Home attempted to operate on donations and income from sale of farm products, by 1918 there were 231 residents and the cost of maintaining the Home had increased materially, necessitating a call for emergency funds, which promptly raised over \$100,000. The cost of

maintaining each resident in the Home was less than \$100 before 1913, but by 1930, had increased to \$330.

In 1914 Professor Swain took a group of boys to the river to teach them how to swim. Young Rulen Choate, aged seven years, ventured too far from the shore and was drowned. The Board ruled that the accident occurred through no fault of Professor Swain.

Through the generosity of Al Menah Shrine Temple, the construction of a boy's dormitory was started and the cornerstone was laid on June 26, 1915. The Board reported that the Old Mason's Home was not yet complete and that about \$10,000 would be needed before it could be occupied. A resolution was adopted which would increase the number of persons on the Board of Control to seven. The Grand Master appointed Chas. H. Brandon and Nat P. LeSueuer.



A misunderstanding arose between the Board of Control and the Endowment Commission. At the Annual Communication in 1911 the Grand Lodge ordered that so much of the income from the Endowment Fund as was needed for upkeep of the Home should be given to the Board for that purpose. This left undecided the matter of how much money was needed for that purpose. In 1912 and 1914 Grand Lodge ordered that all interest income be given to the Home. In 1915 the Committee on Accounts recommended that the increment be left with the Endowment Commission to increase the principal. The Grand Lodge did not adopt this, but the *Proceedings* reflected that it was.



The Secretary made the corrections in his minutes later, however. Grand Master T. A. Hisey recommended that the Commission submit to the Home all its interest income. Grand Lodge, however, ordered the Commission to retain all its income.

Henry W. Buttorff, Vice Chairman of the Board, who died on September 16, 1915, was given special recognition at the Annual Communication in 1916. He often gave sixteen year olds a place in his business until they were trained adequately to secure suitable employment elsewhere.

On February 26, 1915 the Board called

upon Professor Swain to resign his position. Professor and Mrs. W. L. Holt were selected to fill these vacancies, but remained only a short time. On September 9, 1915 Professor and Mrs. C. H. Kimbrough were hired.

In 1915 the school was taken over entirely by the County. Miss Sammie D. Bayless, granddaughter of Wilkins Tannehill, was engaged to teach Kindergarten and Domestic Science. The annual July 4th picnic netted \$2840 for the benefit of the Old Masons' Home.

The new boy's dormitory was nearly complete, costing about \$12,000. It was located adjacent to the Old Masons' Home, and of the same style of construction, however the Old Masons' Home cost about \$30,000. The two buildings were to be heated by the same boiler and Grand Lodge approved the expenditure of \$5,000 for its installation.



Grand Lodge appropriated \$3,020 to discharge the debt on the Old Masons' Home and took ownership. Grand Lodge also ordered that no inmates be admitted prior to September 1, 1916; that Grand Lodge was not committed to maintaining the Home longer than in the judgment of Grand Lodge, it was expedient to do so; and that Grand Lodge reserved the right to take the Old Masons' Home for use of the Widows' and Orphans' Home if advisable.

The L. & N. Railroad Company, as they had for several years, provided free transportation for coal to the Home, thus saving an expense of several hundred dollars each year.

Grand Lodge, in 1916, ordered the incoming Grand Master to appoint a committee to develop rules for the governance of the Home.

In 1917 Grand Master John T. Peeler and the Board met with the Grand Commandery in Nashville who made a donation of \$3,000 for improvements to the Home.

A Brother Mason of Fentress County died and bequeathed his land of about 40 acres, valued at about \$500, to the Home provided his family was admitted to the Home. The executor stated that the estate lacked \$75 with which to pay the bills of the estate, and if the Home would pay the \$75, he would make a deed out in favor of the Home for the 40 acres of land. The Home paid it and admitted the widow and orphans to the Home. The Committee on Jurisprudence took a dim view of these actions. Firstly, the Board accepted property on a condition. A contract was made and accepted, and the Home was obligated to accept and provide for the family. Secondly, the Home should not accept property with "strings attached," that is, the Board has no authority to accept property that obligates Grand

Lodge. The committee ruled that the property belonged to Grand Lodge and its disposition was at the pleasure of Grand Lodge. The committee, however, did recommend that the property go to the Endowment Fund.

Professor and Mrs. C. H. Kimbrough, after several years of service as Superintendent and Matron, resigned on September 1, 1917. Professor and Mrs. W. O. Cranor were rehired. The Board provided them with an Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Matron, namely, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones, who stayed less than a year.

The picnic on July 4, 1917 raised \$4,497, largely due to the efforts of the Eastern Star. The boys dormitory was finished and occupied with approximately fifty boys and had quarters for the Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Matron. The need for a more dependable water supply was mentioned as well as a sewer system. Grand Lodge was not held on the afternoon of January 29, 1917 in order that the membership might visit the Home.

Bumpas presented to the Home a service flag bearing nineteen stars in honor of former residents who were in the military service and whose names were listed in the 1918 *Proceedings*. A letter from a former resident, Andrew E. Haynie, who was serving in the Navy, was published in the 1919 *Proceedings*. Apparently he had received training in telegraphy while in the Home and was able to use that skill in the Navy. Horton Allen Riter, who had lived in the Home from age three to fourteen, died of pneumonia while in Camp Sevier in South Carolina on September 19, 1918.

Three cases were recited by Grand Master Samuel C. Brown related to the qualifications of widows and orphans to enter the Home. In each case the Mason's membership had lapsed. The Grand Master ordered the Board to admit them all, an act that the Jurisprudence Committee declared he did not have the power to do. Grand Lodge, however, did permit these cases to stand.



In 1917 the Order of the Eastern Star asked permission to establish a Home for Masonic widows. The Grand Master appointed a committee to meet with a like group from the Eastern Star to develop a plan. The result, reported in 1920, was that the Eastern Star would pay for a school building to be built at the Home, which Grand Lodge accepted with thanks. The Ways and Means Committee suggested that such a building not be constructed at that time. The Grand Master laid the cornerstone on January 28, 1920 but construction took place as money became available.

The annual picnic on July 4, 1918 was not well attended, supposedly because the minds of the people were on the war, but a total of \$1,500 was collected.

The Board spent \$9,075 over the amount of money they had, which Grand Lodge agreed to pay. The Ways and Means Committee, however, ruled that the Board did not have the authority to obligate the Grand Lodge to debts of this nature. The improvements were for a water system and a heating system.

Alhambra Shrine Temple of Chattanooga and Kerbela Shrine Temple of Knoxville installed a playground at the home in 1918.



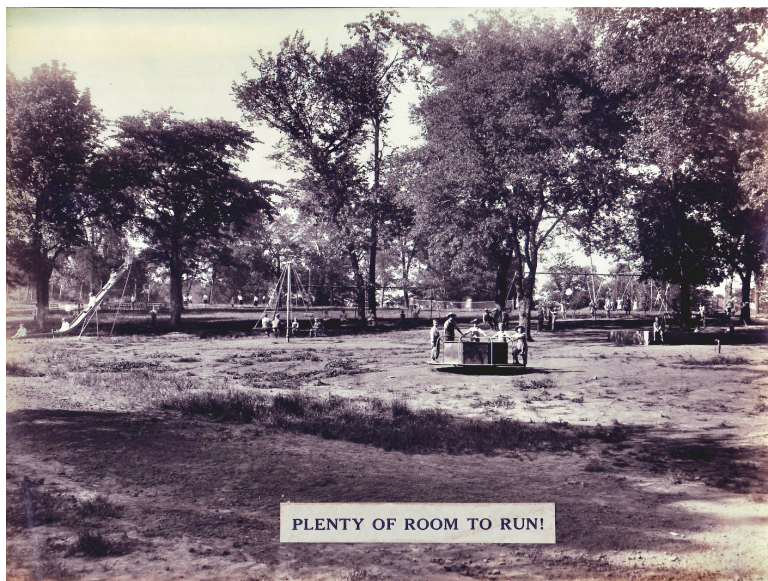
The Board, perhaps trying to arrange for the children to stay in the Home after they had reached their sixteenth birthday, asked the Grand Master in 1919 for a ruling as to the age of orphan, and the answer was that orphans are minors.

By June the Board ran out of money again. The Grand Master appointed Vernon S. Tupper as manager of a campaign fund drive. The call was for \$50,000; it raised over \$102,000. The funds not needed for immediate relief were invested for a six-month period at 5% interest.

Bumpas, in 1920, reported that many applications to the Home stated that the reason for requesting admission was so the children could have better educational opportunities. He stated that the Home was not an educational institution and rejected such applications.

The July 4th picnic in 1919 raised over \$1,200. A special visitor at that time was Sgt. Alvin York who had several relatives in the Home.

The poultry operation, the vegetable garden and the dairy contributed materially to the needs of the kitchen. The heating plant was being operated at over its rated capacity and would soon have to be replaced when more buildings were attached to it.





The City of Nashville was expanding toward the Home and the price of adjacent land was increasing. Bumpas advised that an adjoining 86 acres be bought for a price of \$125 per acre and Grand Lodge approved such a purchase. The committee assigned to this task reported in 1921 that the land had within it 30 acres which belonged to a second party and refused to purchase the acreage without also securing the 30 acres. The entire unit of 112.5 acres was purchased for a total of \$13,250.

In 1920 Mrs. Ethel Crabtree and Mrs. Mary E. Crittenden, Worthy Grand Matrons of the Eastern Star and their fellow members were constructing a new school building addition at the Home at a cost of \$40,000 of which \$25,000 had been raised. On the

first day of the Annual Communication in 1922 Grand Master Rodney Blake dedicated the new school building addition.

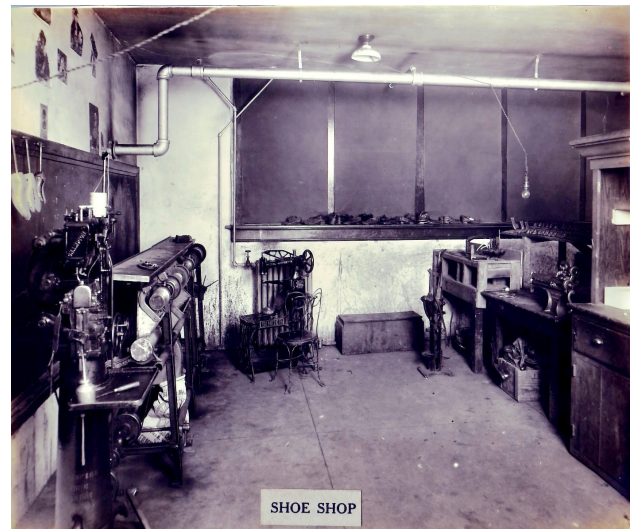
The Home was obligated to purchase one hundred feet of right-of-way for the railroad spur at a cost of \$500. The deed for this was not recorded which, in 1923, resulted in the Sheriff selling the land for taxes to J. S. Young. Grand Lodge sued and recovered the \$500, and was allowed the use of the land for right-of-way purposes.

The July 4th picnic in 1920 was for the children only, not a fundraiser. The Grand Master declared an emergency at the Home as related to the heating plant and authorized the Board to make needed adjustments at a cost of \$11,000.

In 1921 Grand Lodge appropriated \$600 for scholarships to enable residents of the Home to attend high school. The Board was appreciative of the scholarship money but desired to establish a high school on the premises of the Home.

Grand Master Blake made decisions related to eligibility to enter the Home. In the first, the Brother was 68 years of age and because of infirmities unable to care for his family. In the other case the Brother disappeared twelve months earlier leaving his family destitute not knowing if the man was alive or dead. The ruling in both cases was that the Grand Master could not change the rules to admit these persons.

Bumpas told the Grand Lodge that the most pressing problem was not in furnishing food, clothing and



shelter to the residents, but in training the children so they would be able to secure suitable employment after they left the Home.

At the 1923 Annual Communication the Knoxville Lodges offered a resolution that called upon Grand Lodge to expand the Home to take care of persons applying, but the resolution was not adopted.

During the Annual Communication in 1923 the members gathered at the corner of Broadway and Seventh Avenue where Grand Master Walker M. Taylor laid the cornerstone of the Cathedral of Nashville Scottish Rite Bodies.



The Royal Arch Chapter of Tennessee requested permission to place an administrative building on the grounds of the Home, and Grand Lodge approved.

Twenty-three residents/former residents of the Home were being sent to colleges at the expense of Lodges and the Scottish Rite.

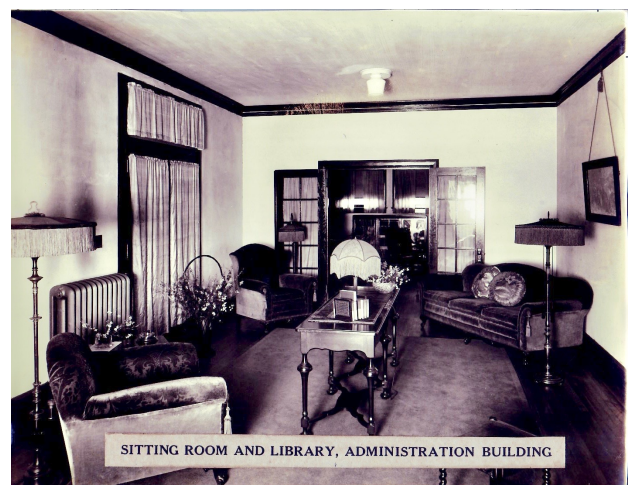
Grand Lodge approved a plan for landscaping the Home. The committee reported back in January 1924 that they had spent \$350 on shrubs, set them out and left them to the care of the personnel of the Home. The plants did not grow.

The Grand Master reported, in 1924, that the L. & N. Railway Company would not give a sewer easement unless it contained a clause that the railroad could demand the removal of the sewer on 60-days notice. A series of septic tanks was constructed at a cost of \$22,000.

Grand Lodge appropriated \$4,000 for the employment of an Executive Manager at the Home, provided the Board saw fit to contract for such services. On February 10, 1925 L. C. Connell was placed in this post.

A committee drafted a bill to incorporate Grand Lodge. The legislature passed it on April 6, 1925 and Governor Austin Peay signed it on April 9, 1925.

The investment of the Home in lands and buildings was over \$500,000 and the number of residents was 290. An Outside Maintenance Plan was adopted which provided for Masonic widows and orphans to be cared for in their own home town.





A dentist came to the Home two days a week at a monthly fee of \$75. Many persons were diseased or undernourished when entering the Home and special attention was afforded to them. The cow barn did not meet sanitary requirements and was rebuilt. In December 1928 the new barn burned and was rebuilt. Twenty thousand gallons of milk were produced in 1929, most of which was sold on the Nashville market.

In 1924 a macadam road was constructed into the campus from Gallatin Pike and named in memory of Ben Allen who had been a strong supporter of the Home.

A school through the eighth grade was operating in 1925 at the Home. A county high school was nearby which several students attended. With financial help from the Scottish Rite and several local subordinate Lodges, eleven girls were sent to Peabody Demonstration School and seven boys were attending Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate.

Subordinate Lodges arranged for widows to enter the Home, some of whom died there. However, the lodges were not always willing to return the corpse to the vicinity of the woman's residence for burial, leaving such responsibility to the Home. In 1924 Grand Lodge bought land for \$880 in the Spring Hill Cemetery near Gallatin Road.

In 1927 Grand Lodge owned two plots of ground in the cemetery, one of 36 graves, 16 of which were occupied, the other of 24 graves, all occupied. No markers of any kind appeared on either lot. The committee recommended an appropriation for markers, but Grand Lodge did not concur. In 1993 there were about fifteen of these lots remaining unused.

When a Mason died and left a family without means of support the local Lodge came to the aid of the distressed. The aid, however, often consisted of moving the widow and her children to the Masonic Home. If her place of residence was near Nashville, the move might be welcome, but if the residence was in upper East or west Tennessee, the move might be mentally traumatic. The widow might never have been that far from home. She and her children would be moving away from friends and relatives into a place of strangers. In exchange for care in the Home, the widow was sometimes required to give her tangible assets to the Lodge. For these reasons and others, the Outside Maintenance Plan gained favor. Though perhaps carried out in conjunction with the Masonic Relief Commission, the Board of Control as early as 1926, apparently supported some needy persons without admitting them to the Home.

The boy's dormitory was built to house 50 boys but 102 were living there. The Ways and Means Committee, in 1926, recommended that the boys be moved into the Old Masons' Home and the old men be moved into the boys dormitory until such time as a plan for their care in their own home town could be finalized.

On October 27, 1926 William H. Bumpas, teacher, lawyer, physician, railroad General Agent and Grand Master in 1898, died at his home in Nashville. Past Grand Master Arch McClanahan, in 1975, noted Bumpas as the "Father of our Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home." A building at the Home was later named in memory of Bumpas.

Grand Master A. E. McCulloch, during his visits, was pleased to attend a meeting at which was present L. C. Connell and thirty-five of the children from the Home. The children entertained this group as well as other across the state.

Grand Lodge members visited the Home during the Annual Communication of 1927 and the Grand Master dedicated the auditorium and gymnasium building which was largely paid for by the Eastern Star. In 1929 the gymnasium fund of \$1,474 was put into the hands of the Board of Control who worked with Al Menah Temple in Nashville to supply equipment for the building.

The 1928 *Proceedings* lists 23 Masonic Homes in as many states and the annual cost per person ranged from \$195 in Kentucky to \$650 in Delaware. Tennessee was \$245; three other states were lower. Some of these had income producing activities that lowered the cost of operation.



Each Grand Master praised the management of the Home by the Board of Control, however, one subordinate Lodge, Cumberland No. 8, found fault. The *Proceedings* of 1928 record an order that the Grand Master appoint a committee to investigate the Home. The 1929 *Proceedings* report that the committee heard more than 20 witnesses, spent two full days hearing testimony, and sent to the Grand Master a 300-page typewritten report. The committee found no fault of the management of the Home, and in fact, praised it highly. The Grand Master declared the charges dismissed and held the Board of Control and the Executive Manager completely exonerated.

The *Proceedings* of 1930 contain a 42-page report written by Martin S. Roberts. The roster of the residents was given as well their date of admittance, their age and the sponsoring Lodges. Twenty-eight residents transferred to the Outside Maintenance Plan.

There were no old men on the resident roster in 1929. Perhaps the movement of them from their quarters in 1928 might have had a bearing upon their leaving the Home. There were 42 men on the Outside Plan on January 1, 1930, 45 old ladies, 32 mothers and 226 children. The number of residents was 188. The cost per person on the Outside Plan was \$150 per year, for residents, \$330.

Roberts thanked the Order of the Eastern Star ladies for their many kindnesses to the residents. Some Star ladies came once a week to bring items or just to share joys; others came once a month.



HOME FOR OLD LADIES

One of the founders of the Home, Marcus B. Toney died in 1929. He was the first and only President of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Tennessee, devoting forty-three years of labor to the Home and its residents, even after they were grown and had left the Home.

Fifteen children died at the Home during the first 37 years of operation. The most tragic perhaps were those of Rulen Choate, the seven-year old, who drowned in the river in 1914, and John McLean, a fifteen-year old who was accidentally electrocuted in 1929.

In 1929 there were 3,750 patients treated in the clinic by Dr. Reynolds and a registered nurse. A swimming pool was opened in 1927 that provided much needed recreation. The girls used it during the afternoons, the boys in the evenings. A Girls Reserve Club functioned, as did a Boy Scout Troop. The boiler was replaced and a water tank was built.

Due to lack of funds the Board was not able to admit new residents to the Home during 1929, but 185 were admitted to the Outside Plan. Roberts reported that care was being exercised lest persons be admitted to the rolls that were not in definite need. The Home sent an experienced investigator to look into the situation of each applicant. He further noted that some mothers left the Home and established their own homes but refused to take their own children. Four children were placed in adoptive homes.

Boys housed in the dormitory were adventurous and a little devilish. Late one night they quietly left their sleeping quarters and, leaving their clothes on the edge of the swimming pool, proceeded into the water. The superintendent, "Old Mas Connell," was alerted of this and summoned his employees who surrounded the pool. When the lights were turned on, there, in full view were a group of partially submerged naked boys. Connell stood near the ladder exit from the pool and greeted each boy with a few good whacks from a sturdy paddle firmly applied to a wet bottom.



DORMITORY FOR LITTLE GIRLS



Grand Lodge approved a resolution to authorize the Board to solicit the sale of the Home.

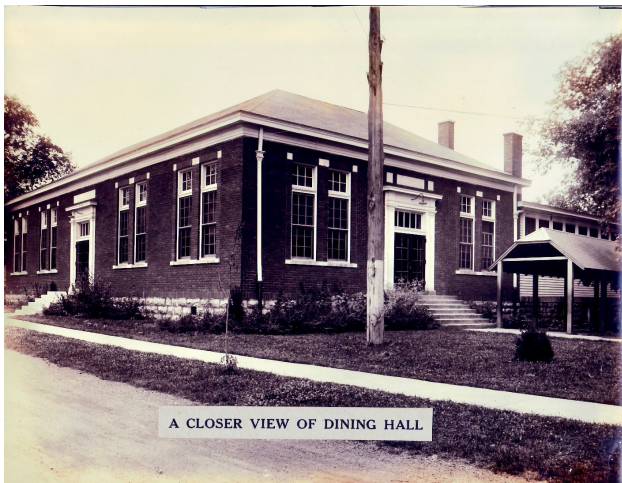
A motion was put before Grand Lodge to omit the word "minor" when describing persons eligible to enter the Home, with the effect that there would be no age limit. This, however, was not approved.

Grand Master J. B. Templeton in 1934 pointed out that the total revenue of Grand Lodge in 1934 would be about \$90,395. For the past several years Grand Lodge had been contributing about \$90,000 for the operation of the Home.

He recommended a per capita tax of \$2.50 instead of the \$2.00 as passed by the Grand Lodge in 1933. Grand Lodge did not concur.

Grand Lodge ordered that the interest earned by the Endowment Fund be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer for the exclusive use of the Home. In 1934 \$15,000 was transferred.

The income of the Home in 1934 was \$75,000 from Grand Lodge, \$168 from sale of milk, \$40 from livestock, \$150 from the sale of farm implements and \$1,263 from donations. Apparently the Board had decided against further efforts at farming and was in the process of liquidating assets. The number of residents was 91, the number on the Outside Plan was 315. In 1935 the main building of the Home was razed and the materials salvaged to best advantage.



On January 13, 1937 \$2,897 was spent on a new heating plant for the Home. Grand Master W. Roy Holland noted that over the years children had been brought into the Home with no counseling as to whether such a move would be in the best interests of the child. Many applications came soon after the death of the father, and in some cases families were split apart because the widow could not care for all her children. Holland suggested that the children be left in their own home town if possible, but if, in the best interests of the child, admit him or her to the Home.

The Outside Plan had been in existence for 11 years, though some mistakes had been made. Abuses apparently had been uncovered for in 1937, Past Grand Master Robert Burrows presented a resolution that no person would receive aid that was not a resident of the Home or was entitled to become a resident. The motion was tabled.



DINING ROOM

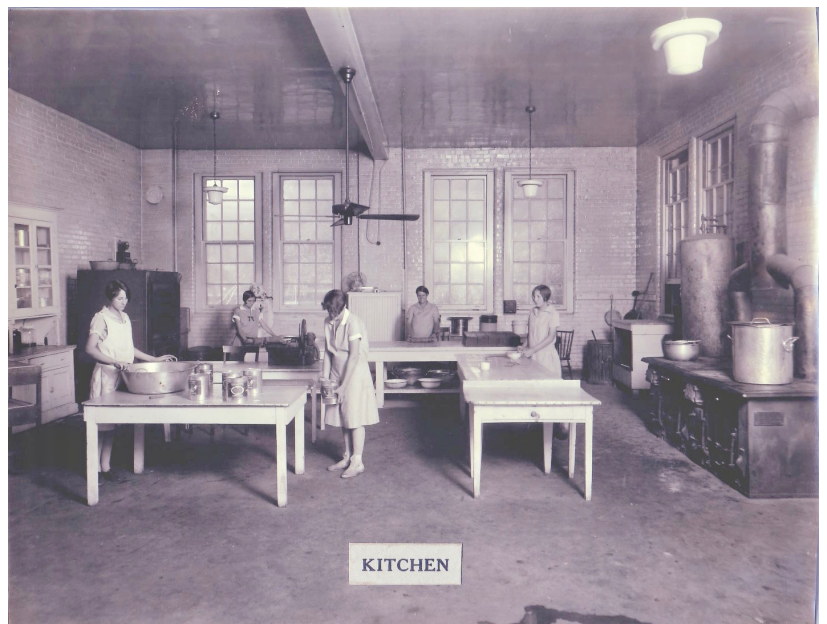


LITTLE GUESTS AS WAITRESSES

In 1936 Grand Lodge approved the elimination of the General Masonic Relief Commission, such duties being transferred to the Board of Control.

Grand Master Neal M. Rutland, in 1938, reported that 2,321 persons had been given aid by the Home at a cost of about three million dollars. There were 48 residents in January 1937.

In 1940 Grand Master Lindsay B. Phillips recommended the disposal of the Home, for it was taking a large amount of money just to maintain the buildings, even though all but two of them had been closed. Only 13 persons, all old ladies, were living at the Home. He praised the Outside Plan for helping the 466 needy orphans and widows. The average cost of these was \$115 a year.



KITCHEN

In 1940 a special Masonic Home Committee was appointed by Grand Master Paul Fisher Lanius to study the deeds and legal documents of the Home and to make a general inquiry into its operation. The committee reported at the Annual Communication in January 1941 that the deeds of the five tracts of land totaling 213.5 acres were in order and the title to same could be conveyed by the Grand Maser, Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden. The land was sold to the State of Tennessee for \$125,000 and the title conveyed in May 1941. The net proceeds, \$119,624, were transferred to the Endowment Fund.

The organization supplying the needs of widows and orphans continued to be known as Widows' and Orphans' Home, even though there was no Home as such. All interest accruing from Endowment Funds was to be given into the hands of the Grand Secretary with the restriction that it was to be used only for the maintenance of old Masons, widows and orphans.



The Board of Control obtained a long-term lease on a home at 101 Antioch Pike, Nashville that the ladies found to be very suitable. In January 1943 there were 10 old ladies in the rented property and 366 on the Outside Plan on whom was spent \$46,954. In a few cases the Grand Lodge supplemented state aid. The State, in 1942, gave 78% of the beneficiary's budget and the Grand Lodge made up the difference. In 1943 the State gave 84% of the needs and the Grand Lodge made up the difference. Most of the persons on the roll, however, received no state aid, such as the 16-year old children at which state aid stopped. The Grand Lodge

continued to pay these persons until they were ready to enter the business field.

There were 300 total beneficiaries in January 1944 and 219 in January 1945. One lady died in 1943 and two died in 1944 leaving only seven in the rented home on Antioch Pike. In 1945 three of the widows in the home died or were transferred, leaving four, who were still there on January 1, 1947.

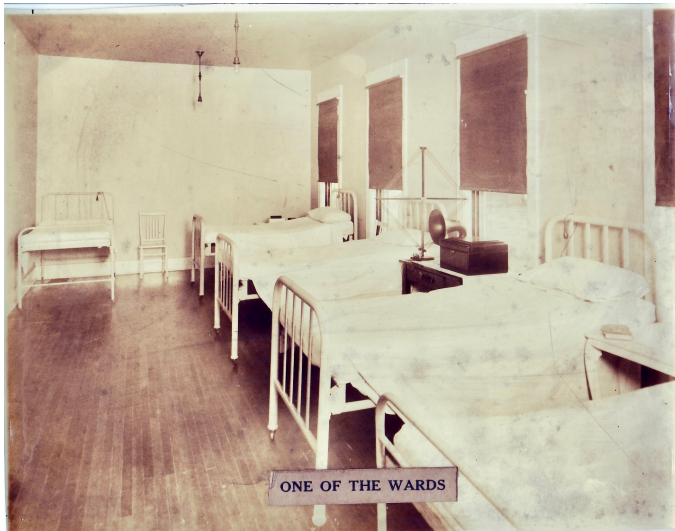
The number of beneficiaries on January 1, 1947 was 170. In this report in the *Proceedings*, the writer used the term "Aged Masons" and "Aged Widows" instead of "old Masons" and "old ladies." This may have been the last year that the home operated on Antioch Avenue, inasmuch as in 1948 no ladies were listed in that place.

In 1947, \$36,466 was spent on the maintenance of 184 widows and orphans. In 1948 the Home spent \$39,429 to aid 181 persons, and \$9,714 for salaries and other operating expenses.

In 1957 the Welfare Committee suggested that a home in middle Tennessee be located which could accommodate an elderly man. At that time there were thirteen persons in nursing homes, three in a T.B. Hospital, two in a regular hospital, one was a mental case and one was in the Home for Incurables.



The Welfare Committee praised the work of Brothers L. C. Connell and Coy Duke, and suggested that the workload was such that an additional person should be hired to help in the office.



Lucien Connell died on April 6, 1958. He had served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Control of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home since 1922, and was Executive Manager of the Home from that time until it was closed, when he took over supervision of the Masonic charity program under the Outside Maintenance Plan. Coy H. Duke, who had served as Connell's assistant, was appointed as Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1964 the Board of Control began to supply money to children of Masons who were undergoing educational training for which they did not have the funds. Grand Lodge acted on this in 1966 and the program continues.

The Jurisprudence Committee, in 1966, advised that Coy H. Duke, the Secretary of the Board of Control, be dropped from this committee inasmuch as he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, a salaried position. The Board consisted of two members from each division of the state plus the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the two Grand Wardens.

The Grand Master, in 1965, appointed a committee of four persons to revise, alter and edit that portion of the Code dealing with the operation of the Home. Such rules were published in the 1966 Proceedings as Title 7, Chapters 1, 2 and 3.

The Board reported in 1968 that 18 students were being helped financially in their educational efforts. Thirty-eight had been helped since the inception of the program.

When the Home was first established, funds were donated by individuals, groups and Grand Lodge. In 1898 Grand Lodge gave \$7,922. The appropriations between 1902 and 1913 were in the range of \$10,000 and \$20,000. From 1913 to 1921, they were \$20,000 to \$30,000, and from 1921 to 1963, \$60,000 to \$106,240. The last contribution from Grand Lodge was \$10,000 in 1970.



In 1964 to 1967 the Endowment Fund contributed \$32,000 per year to the home, in 1968, \$38,000 and in 1969, \$40,000. In 1970 Grand Treasurer Arch McClanahan reported the transfer of \$100,000 to the Endowment Fund from Grand Lodge. Interest from this and interest from funds already in the Endowment Fund were expected to be adequate for the needs of the Board of Control thus making future appropriations from Grand Lodge unnecessary.



GROUNDS, FROM HOME FOR OLD MASONS

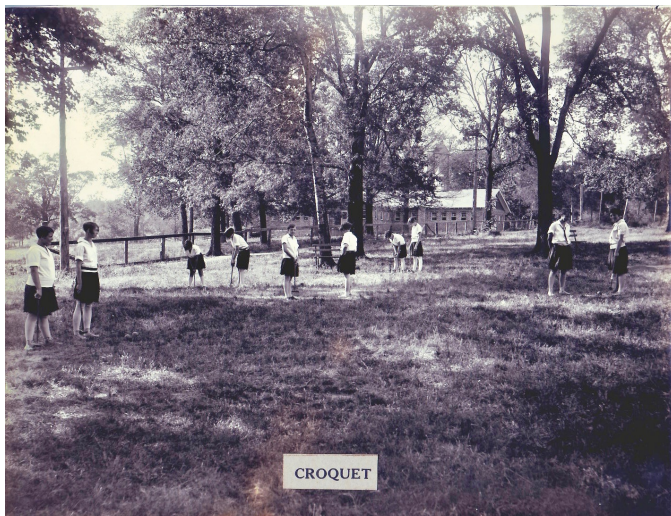
Thus a project started in 1894 finally reached its goal, a tribute to the hundreds of Masons of Tennessee who contributed to this worthy cause, and to the many who worked so hard for its success. After 76 years of dependency upon Grand Lodge, the Endowment Fund was finally able to care for the needs of widows and orphans of Master Masons using income from investments. Thus the current Masons of Tennessee are reaping the profits of their forbearers, leaving other charitable activities open for current emphasis.

Between 1892 and 1938 a total of 1,438 persons were received into the Home. From 1926 to 1938 a total of 871 beneficiaries were enrolled in the Outside Plan.

The number of beneficiaries dropped during World War II and again in 1951 when only 165 were enrolled. The beneficiaries between 1952 and 1993 numbered from 170 to 266 and the average was 231. The peak number of beneficiaries, 479, occurred in 1940.

That portion of the total expenses of the Home, which was spent on maintenance and education during 1957 to 1993, ranged from 77.8% in 1980 to 90.4% in 1961, and the average was 83.07%. The amount of money spent on assistance in the year 1956 was \$55,062 and in 1993 was \$349,370. There were 266 beneficiaries in 1992, thus an average of \$1,313.42 was spent on each recipient.

In about 1983 a group of former residents who were mostly in their seventies, held a reunion at Madison. All expressed sincere thanks to the Masons for providing them with food, clothing and shelter during their years of need. An elderly lady, then in her nineties, who had rocked many babies in her younger days at the home, was at the reunion.



CROQUET



TENNIS AND SWINGS

ENDOWMENT FUND:

In 1894 the Grand Lodge directed that a committee devise ways and means for securing a permanent endowment for the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home. This marked the beginning of the Endowment Fund that has served the Grand Lodge very well. Thus 1994 marked the 100th anniversary of the first action taken by the Grand Lodge for the method of supporting charitable causes.

This committee reported to Grand Lodge in 1897: "How best to secure the permanency of an Endowment for the Widows' and Orphans' Home, beg leave to report that they are encouraged to believe that it is in the Masonic heart of this Grand Jurisdiction to endow the home by personal contributions; but not until the Home shall have become the unencumbered property of this Grand Lodge, and that the corpus of such contributions shall not be encroached up – the interest being used – an endowment, in fact."

In 1898 Grand Lodge elected three Endowment Fund Commissioners, and ordered that a committee be appointed to formulate rules for the government of said Board of Endowment Fund Commissioners. In 1899 the rules were presented.

In 1899 the Endowment Fund received what apparently was its first interest on its money, \$98. In 1900 it purchased three \$1,000 bonds paying 6% interest. In 1901 the contributions were \$622.

In 1904 the Committee of Endowments was placed on "the payroll." This is interpreted to mean that the committee members could receive reimbursement for expenses incurred while of Grand Lodge business. Contributions to the fund in 1904 were \$4,623, and in 1904, \$1,531. In January 1905 the Grand Lodge put \$1,000 in the fund. In 1905 the committee raised \$1,821 and Grand Lodge contributed \$2,000. Grand Lodge also voted to give \$1,000 to the fund provided the treasury had this much on hand after the bills had been paid.

In 1908 the Commission requested that it be authorized to purchase first mortgages. Grand Lodge rejected this, but did suggest that if Grand Lodge decided to build a building, that the Endowment Commission could loan money for that purpose.

Grand Lodge, in 1910, purchased property at 306 Seventh Avenue North for the purpose of building a home. The price was \$25,000 and the seller was Mrs. E. A. Eakin. The deed was made out as undivided property of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, the Lodge to own four fifths and the Chapter to own one fifth. The Lodge borrowed \$24,000 from the Endowment Fund for this purchase. However, the Ways and Means Committee pointed out that the Endowment Commission borrowed the money, using their own bonds as collateral, an act that the committee deemed rather odd. This making of a loan to Grand Lodge caused the commission to be unable to pay to the Home all the interest generated by the fund in 1910, which caused the Home to send an appeal to the subordinate Lodges for contributions to meet the current expenses of the Home. In the 1913 *Proceedings* the Endowment Commission explained why they were unable to supply the needs of the Home. The amount due, \$1,527 was paid on August 24, 1912.

Due to the indebtedness for the construction of a new Masonic Hall, Grand Master Charles H. Byrn, recognized that Grand Lodge could not support the Home as it had in the past and called upon the subordinate Lodges to contribute to the Endowment Fund in order that interest from this fund would eventually support the Home.

On January 1, 1911 Grand Master Byrn learned that the new home for Grand Lodge would not be completed in time for the regular Annual Communication scheduled for January 25, 1911. After consulting with the Grand Officers and Past Grand Masters, Byrn postponed the meeting until March 8, 1911, on which date the dedication ceremonies were held, and the new home was christened "Freemasons Hall."

In 1912 the Endowment Commission reported that \$1,200 had been received from the Crippen estate and only \$98 received from the subordinate Lodges. The committee suggested that support of the Endowment Fund be tied to a portion of the per capita tax, inasmuch as the appeal for funds for the Home was taking precedence over the appeal for the Endowment Fund. In 1913 less than \$100 was collected by the committee and in 1914, only \$21.

In 1912 Grand Lodge gave permission to the commission to make loans on real estate, most of which bore an interest rate of 6%.

In 1858 Cumberland Lodge No. 8 borrowed from the Grand Lodge \$700 and gave its bond for the amount. In 1911 the Grand Lodge called for payment. Though the statute of limitations had expired, Cumberland Lodge felt a moral obligation to pay its debt. Grand Lodge agreed to accept \$350 and release Cumberland Lodge from further obligation, the payment going to the Board of Control.

The rules of the commission were revised, especially in regard to the operation of mortgages. Interest from Grand Lodge paid to the commission in 1913 was \$1,560 and that from Grand Chapter was \$2,500.

In 1914 the bequest of Brother R. H. Dudley of \$1,000 was noted. The Nashville Trust Company, the executor of the Will, requested clarification as to whether the money was to be paid to the Home or to the Endowment Commission. The payment was received in 1917 or 1918.

The Ways and Means Committee in 1917 recommended that \$12.50 per month be appropriated and paid for the maintenance of each inmate of the Old Masons' Home; that there should not be more than 30 inmates at any one time; and that the accounts of the Home and the Old Masons' Home be kept separate. This latter request was not complied with fully.

On November 15, 1917 the Grand Treasurer paid \$9,385 to the Endowment Fund to discharge the debt against Freemasons Hall. For several years the Board of Control carried on their books a \$1,000 unsecured loan made to Roger Eastman and the board now doubted if it was collectable. In 1920 it was deleted from the books.

The Will of J. H. Patterson, of Knox County, probated March 8, 1918, bequeathed assets to the Home. The Will, contested in Circuit Court, was upheld and Grand Lodge requested that all assets of the deceased be sold and the proceeds paid to the Endowment Fund. Payment of \$10,200 was received in 1920.

Grand Lodge approved that all the interest from the Endowment Fund be retained in that fund, a subject for debate for several years.

The 1920 *Proceedings* carried notice that the city, county and state governments were considering condemnation proceedings against Freemasons Hall, in order to build a memorial project. Grand Lodge gave the Trustees permission to provide for another location for the Annual Communication, if necessary.

The Committee on Endowments reported an income of \$301, and explained that the low income was due to the several "drives" which had been conducted. Grand Lodge approved the transfer of \$25,000 to the Endowment Fund, the Grand Treasurer to receive one percent commission on the transfer.

Brother J. D. Kisber had an insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000 on which Grand Lodge was the beneficiary. At his death he left his family in needy circumstances. Grand Lodge voted, in 1921, to give the \$1,000 to Brother Kisber's daughter for her educational expenses. Brother Kisber had, during his lifetime, given a medal to the child with the best academic record in the home. After his death the Board continued to give the medal that they named in memory of Brother Kisber.

Grand Master T. W. Peace, in 1921, encouraged the brethren to find ways of supporting the Home which would make it unnecessary to conduct "drives." The idea of attaching a fee to each degree conferred seemed to have favor in that such persons some day might call upon the Home for services. A special committee on the Home recommended that a campaign be conducted just prior to St. John's Day each year.

In January 1921 the condemnation of Freemasons Hall seemed possible. A price of \$85,000 was offered, which seemed much too low. Governor Albert H. Roberts met with the Secretary and Grand Master and stated that additional legislation would be required before the park could be built.

Donations to the Endowment Fund through the Endowment Committee in 1920 were only \$1,212 and the committee was abolished. The Endowment Commission absorbed those duties and selected a bank to serve as custodian of the funds.

The 1922 Annual Communication was the last to be held in Freemasons Hall, it being taken by the government to make way for a memorial park. The selling price was \$84,000 and Grand Lodge took the seats and vault doors, and occupied the building rent-free until March 1, 1922. The vault doors were moved to the Watkins Hall building and sold for \$150 in 1925. Grand Lodge was housed in Watkins Hall, 155 Sixth Ave. N as was the Nashville Scottish Rite Bodies.

Grand Lodge authorized the incoming officers to make investments in the Scottish Rite Cathedral bonds at such time as was deemed appropriate. In 1925 the new Scottish Rite building, 7th and Broadway, was completed, and Grand Lodge occupied spaces there at a yearly rental of \$2,400.

In 1923 Grand Master Walker M. Taylor scolded the members for not appropriating enough money to supply the needs of the Home. The expenses of the home increased 34.6% over the previous year, necessitating the borrowing of \$20,000 to pay the expenses.

The Grand Treasurer, by the Code, was allowed a commission on moneys passing through his hands from the Grand Lodge. The rate of three percent was established by Grand Lodge. He was allowed one and one-half percent on moneys donated to the Home, but none on donations made to the Endowment Fund. In his report in the 1919 *Proceedings*, he pointed out that because he had taken only half of his normal legal fee, he had, in effect, donated \$5,730 to the Home. The following year the Grand Treasurer did not collect all of his legal commissions, and asked that he be credited with a personal payment of \$500 to the Home.

The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the Grand Treasurer receive a salary of \$600 per year, a proposal that the Grand Lodge did not approve. The *Proceedings* are not clear if the proposal was in addition to the commissions or in lieu thereof. In 1921 Grand Lodge approved a \$1,200 salary for the Grand Treasurer.

Grand Treasurer Woodward died February 27, 1923 and Grand Master George L. Hardwick appointed Garnett N. Morgan to act in that capacity until the next Annual Communication. Morgan accepted under the condition that he would receive no salary and would deduct no fees for the amounts tendered to him as Grand Treasurer.

In 1926 the Ways and Means Committee took up the matter of compensation to the Grand Treasurer, who, however, indicated that he would take no pay for his services. The same committee expressed thanks to Brother Garnett Morgan again in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930 for his devoted loyalty and unselfish service.

The *Proceedings* of 1926 list many people who had borrowed money from the Endowment Fund, the loans being secured by real estate.

In 1929 a committee was appointed to look into the possibility of joint ownership of the Cathedral at 7th and Broadway, with the Scottish Rite Bodies of Nashville. Grand Lodge, at that time, was renting office space from the Scottish Rite Bodies who were undergoing a financial crisis. Apparently the Scottish Rite was unable to pay the interest on bonds purchased by Grand Lodge, and Grand Lodge allowed the interest from bonds as rent.

Under the Will of Moses Byran of Robertson County, Grand Lodge was the primary beneficiary, and the widow was practically destitute. Grand Lodge sold the timber from the bequeathed land for \$10,615 and granted the widow \$615 immediately and the interest from \$10,000.

In 1932 the rules of the Endowment Fund were amended to the effect that funds were to be invested only in obligations of The United States, The State of Tennessee, Cities and Counties of Tennessee under certain conditions, and on first mortgages, not to exceed fifty percent of the value thereon. In later years the fund assumed ownership of stocks and bonds.

In 1933 a resolution was adopted calling for a special committee to investigate the formation of a Bond Holder Committee, said special committee to be authorized to take necessary steps to protect and preserve the rights of the Grand Lodge.

Two secretarial positions became vacant in the Grand Lodge office and Brother John T. Reynolds, Jr. started working in the office in August, 1933.

The Nashville Scottish Rite Bodies were undergoing foreclosure on the Cathedral, on which Grand Lodge had loaned \$80,000. In 1935 John Peeler presented a resolution, accepted by Grand Lodge, to the effect that legal counsel be secured to protect the interests of Grand Lodge and to purchase the building if such could be obtained at a reasonable price.

In 1936 Brother Peeler reported that the committee on the Scottish Rite Temple had presented their case to court, the claim was allowed, and that the property was in the hands of a receiver appointed by the court.

On May 20, 1937 the Chancellor of Court approved the sale of the Scottish Rite Temple to the Grand Lodge at a price of \$150,000 plus interest at 6% from February 20, 1937. The money was borrowed from the Endowment Fund. Though no bill from legal counselors was received, Grand Lodge voted to pay \$1,000 for these services. Grand Lodge was now relieved of paying rent, and would receive annual rent of about \$6,180 from other Masonic bodies. A new roof was installed on the building at a cost of \$4,300.

In January 1945 Grand Master Arch McClanahan noted that the Grand Lodge Building at 7th and Broadway was free of debt, the Endowment Fund having been paid the money that was borrowed on May 26, 1937 for the purchase. He recommended that Grand Lodge look into the question of the bonds that were bought from the Scottish Rite in about 1923 by individuals and organizations, including the Grand Lodge. The Scottish Rite Bodies of Nashville that took bankruptcy in 1937, were under no legal obligation to repay the purchasers of these bonds, but the moral obligation remained. Grand Lodge agreed to forgo any claim which it had on \$80,000 in bonds which it held, and further, appropriated \$35,000 toward the restitution of other holders of Scottish Rite Temple bonds under the stipulation that sufficient funds, including the above \$35,000, were raised by the Scottish Rite Bodies to retire all such obligations at the same time.

In 1955 the Trustees of the Endowment Fund deemed it advisable to sell property located at 13th Avenue and Broadway, but did not have the authority, and went to Grand Lodge to secure permission to sell, a request which was granted.

In 1962 the number of members on the Endowment Fund Commission was increased from three to four, all members of the Grand Lodge (Past Masters). However, Grand Lodge, in 1967, decreed that the Commission should consist of three members, Master Masons and members of a Tennessee Lodge, one of whom is elected each year for a term of three years.

In about 1975 the Endowment Fund began giving assistance to other people, under a plan termed as Special Assistance. The number of persons under this plan numbered between 20 and 119 each year.

Brother Coy Duke, Secretary of the Board of Control, retired in 1975, and Billie R. Brown was appointed to the post. In 1990 he became Grand Secretary, and Johnny L. Byrd was appointed to fill the post.

The amount of money in the fund exceeded one million dollars in 1955, two million in 1969, three million in 1982, four million in 1986 and six million in 1991. During 1990 the fund received a bequest of \$1,421,793 from Arch McClanahan.

The current method of operation is that all requests for assistance come to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund through the subordinate Lodge. The Secretary/Treasurer then visits the person thought to be in need and recommends, by way of a form, to the Board of Control the amount of assistance warranted. Each February the Secretary/Treasurer submits to the Board of Control a budget as to the expected requests for assistance and operating expenses. The board then submits to the commissioners of the Endowment Fund a request for a certain amount of money. These funds are sent to the Board of Control on a monthly basis.

No two applications for assistance are the same and differences of opinion exist as to whether a need is present. On one occasion the Secretary/Treasurer visited the residence of a person who was thought to be in need. The resident stood on the dirt floor of his home and said he needed no assistance, that if he needed money he would cash in one of his Certificates of Deposit at the bank.

One measure of efficiency of operation of the Endowment Fund might be the percent of total funds expended for charity. For the fourteen years 1979-1992, this ranged from 3.84% to 6.57%, averaging 5.18%. These figures must be weighed in view of the fact that in some years the income from the investments exceeded the amount of money needed for assistance in which case the surplus funds were added to the Endowment Fund principal. The quantity of funds available for distribution is largely determined by the interest rate paid on investments.

HOW TO OBTAIN BENEFITS:

For one to be eligible for benefits, he must be a Master Mason in good standing that has not been suspended in the past five years nor transferred into this Grand Jurisdiction less than five years ago or their wife and minor children. Widows, mothers, and unmarried daughters of an eligible Mason also qualify. Each must be unable to support themselves, or be unable to depend on their children or their Lodge for support.

Normally, a Mason (after exhausting his personal means of relief) reports a needy person to the Secretary of his Lodge and the Lodge is instructed to provide whatever aid they are financially able to do. If there are needs beyond the financial means of the Lodge, they should have the needy person fill out a brief application requesting assistance and a statement of regular monthly income and expenses. The Lodge should complete another brief form recommending assistance and certify that the Brother was eligible. The Fund may send some immediate assistance if the need is apparent and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fund will personally visit the applicant to establish to what extent the need exists, explain the program and recommend an amount of temporary monthly assistance. The Board of Control at their next meeting will consider this application and affix the amount of assistance and possible duration.

Neither the Lodge nor the person making the referral should comment to the applicant that help is imminent nor provide any amount to be expected. There are many relevant factors, needs cannot always be addressed with money, others applying may have greater need, and limitation of resources frequently dictate the amount provided.

Just because a Brother or member of his family is terminally ill, does not necessarily mean that he needs financial help. Of course, the Fund can offer no assistance when the problem is exclusively poor health or old age. Remember also, that not all needing help will accept it.