



The New Masonic Temple.

TRIUMPH FOR THE MASONS.

The Dedication of the New Temple.

Interesting Local Parade—A Brief Sketch of Local Masonic History—The Reception in the Evening.

Friday night only marked the celebration of Washington's Birthday, but it will also be remembered for years to come by the Masonic fraternity of this and many neighboring towns. The handsome newly-constructed temple on Cannon Street was dedicated by the Masons of this city, early Friday morning. Masonic uniforms were worn on the streets, and coming from all the lodges, engaged in receiving their guests. A more appropriate day could not have been selected for the purpose, and although there were many fine things to be seen as a celebration of the birthday of the father of our country, there seemed to be a greater number on this occasion than ever before, and among that number was one especially which had never before been seen in the breeze—the "Old Glory" which waved from the flag staff on the new Masonic Temple, a building which stands to day more complete than any other Masonic building for miles around. For many years past the members of the various lodges have held their meetings in the old rooms at 25 Market Street. The Masons, after mature reflection, decided that it would be far better for them to have rooms of their own, and accordingly advocated the proposition, which met with a grand success. The next step was the selection of a site, of which there were many, but the number finally dwindled down to one, and that one now contains an handsome building as can be found in any state.

Grand credit is due Messrs. Cannon & Schofield, who were the architects who prepared the plans for the exterior construction, and as much can also be said of Mr. Willie Titus, who superintended the building of the temple. The building is situated on the south side of Cannon Street, opposite Liberty, and is two stories high. The Masons, who happened to gaze over Liberty St. were greatly surprised to witness the handsome building ablaze with splendor.

The site where the new temple now stands was formerly located the old Cannon Street. M. E. Church, built fifty years ago by James Dudley at a cost of \$2,000. The trustees of the Second Methodist Church directed the work of construction. The masonry was done by Isaac Brown, and the first story was built by John Gregg, under the supervision of a gentleman named Barnes, who afterward died at Yonkers, which place he moved to from this city. A conspicuous portion of the new temple is the large column, which was preserved and remodelled from the torn down church. They were built at Athens-on-the-Hudson for a hotel in New Orleans. Not being accepted, they were purchased at a moderate price, and still remain on the site where they were placed fifty years ago. The columns are of the Corinthian style, and are covered with white marble.

At ten o'clock on the evening of September 3, 1894, ground was broken for the temple. A large number of the fraternity gathered in front of the building at the hour named to witness the ceremony, which were fully described at the time.

From the time of the laying of the corner stone the work was pushed with vigor, and the building now stands complete, with the exception of a few finishing touches to the exterior, which will be done when warm weather comes. Owing to an addition to the old church, the temple is twenty-eight feet larger than the original building, and now measures 52x50 feet in size, and is valued at \$70,000. A board of trustees, representing several masonic lodges, have the temple in charge, and is composed of H. H. Eber, George W. Krueger and John Schwartz, of Poughkeepsie Lodge No. 266; George H. Sherman, Willie Titus and Charles H. Schou, of Triune Lodge No. 783; Derrick Brown, Peter L. Van Wageningen and Edgar M. Smith, of Poughkeepsie Chapter No. 178; R. A. M. V. Haight, W. Morgan Lee and George H. Wright, of Poughkeepsie Commandery No. 25.

THE HANDSOME INTERIOR.

The interior of the temple is very handsome, and reminds one more of a palace than a lodge room. The main entrance can be plainly seen from the corner of Main and Liberty Streets, as it is on Cannon Street facing the north. Two large handsome doors separate the outer from the inner portion of the temple; before one can enter it to the big hall two large doors with plate glass are opened to admit him.

The people who were very anxious to go through the temple gathered around the doors long before the hour appointed, namely 8 o'clock. As the large crowd surged into the lower hall they were ushered into the ladies' room, which is situated on the left side of the hall. The room is very large, with a high ceiling, handsomely decorated, the paper ingram on the wall being a faint shade of terra cotta, each having a dainty figured fringe. As the people passed into the ladies' room the first object to meet their gaze was a large shield suspended by wide blue ribbon, which is fastened to the moulding which extends around the walls. A beautiful eching also adorns the wall directly over the mantle piece. On the opposite side of the spacious hall is the gentlemen's room, which is similar to the room just described. Paper ingram also appears on the walls of the hall, and is bordered with a fancy fringe. At the end of the hall are two more rooms, one a gentlemen's coat room, and the other, which is directly opposite is the gentlemen's toilet room. To add to the beauty of the large hall, the walls are heavily wainscoted with Georgia pine. At the direct end of the hall is an elegant banquet room 15x50, and occupies the remaining south end of the building. The ceiling is of Georgia pine, and symmetrically arranged are a number of large windows on the west and south sides of the room.

The companion room to the hall, the kitchen, is situated on the northeast side, and is equipped with all the necessities which are required to prepare the wants of a finer man. Off of the kitchen is a large store which is used for miscellaneous purposes.

HANDSOME LODGE ROOM.

It is situated in the south end of the building, and its furnishings are unusually handsome. Although the people gazed around the immense room as they entered, their eyes were mostly riveted on the excellent carpet which was manufactured especially for the place. It is of the richest velvet and of an elegant design. Suspended from the ceiling at the north and south ends of the room are two magnificent chandeliers. Each one possesses fifteen jets, with upright arms, for gas, and carrying the lamp glass for electricity. The handsome ceiling above these fixtures is very pretty, and lends a charm to all. Their beauty and design of finish is very attractive, and was greatly noticed by visitors. It is constructed in fifteen large panels, and is painted a handsome shade of light blue, and having corners of red and hints of green and white. The room is not without music, as a beautiful Jardine pipe organ is situated on the east side of the room. The furniture is worthy of special note, the chairs and sofas being made of quartered oak, dark finish, and upholstered with red and gold plush. A handsomely carved chair seven feet and a half high, which is turned by the master, also attracts considerable attention. The side walls are pink and terra cotta, decorated with Grecian grey and Greek frets. The ten stained glass windows on the side walls are very pretty, especially two of them. One is to the memory of the late Andrew Smith, donated by William W. Smith, and the other is to the memory of the late Rev. Henry L. Ziegenfuss, donated by the members of Triune Lodge. A gift from Brother Willie Titus in the shape of an altar adorns the floor.

The three new pedestals are of Doric, Ionic and Corinthian architecture. There are two large parlors on the third floor, and in the rear of one is a large assembly room.

plished by two upright Auburn boilers, which are located in the cellar.

The following were the constructors of the building:
Superintendent and builder, Willie Titus;
Mason, John Fleming;
Stream heating, plumbing and tinning, H. H. Trowbridge & Son;
Gas, H. B. Stearns, Rodley & Hubbard, New York;
Sash, blinds, doors and mouldings, George W. Lott;
Inlaid blinds, Venetian Blind Co., Burlington, Vt.;
Plate glass windows, Wm. Gibson's Sons, New York;
Steel casing, Kinnear & Wagner Co., Columbus, Ohio;
Electric wiring, New England Electrical Engineering Co., Watertown, Conn.;
Painting and decorating, Wallhead & Dulbis;
Pedestals, Harlan & Hollinsworth Co., Wilmington, Del.
Lodge room carpet, Luckes, Platt & Co.;
Parlor carpets, Donald, Converse & Parnum, Palmer & Embury, New York;
Upholstery, National Chair Co., Chester, N. Y.;
Hardware, introducing a new design of copper statuettes, L. S. Thomas, Ogden, Stephen Scottell

THE EXERCISES FRIDAY.
The first party of visitors to arrive in the city to participate in the dedication exercises reached here on the 12:30 p. m. train from the south. In the party were Grand Master John Hodge and Grand Secretary E. M. L. Ebers, with ten representatives of the grand lodge. On the same train were also the Newburgh Commandery of twenty-five officers, the Randon Commandery of twenty-five men arrived at 12:45 p. m., and both parties were escorted up town by a delegation of the Poughkeepsie Commandery. After the visitors were dined all of the Masonic bodies congregated at the old lodge rooms on Market Street, from whence they were escorted to the new temple by the Knight Templars.

The grand lodge was opened in the customary manner in the old hall, and the procession then formed in the following order, and marched to the new Masonic Temple:
Baby's Band,
Tyler, with drawn sword,
Sewers with white rods,
Past Master, carrying the Holy Writings, Square and Compasses, supported by two Stewards with rods,
Two burning tapers by two Past Masters,
Chaplain and Grator,
Past Grand Warden,
Past Deputy Grand Warden,
Past Grand Master,
The Glowbe,
Grand Treasurers,
Grand Treasurer,
Junior Grand Warden carrying a silver vessel with white linen,
Senior Grand Master carrying a silver vessel with wine,
Deputy Grand Master carrying a golden vessel with water,
"The Lodge" covered with white linen, carried by four brethren,
Master, carrying the Holy Writings,
Grand Master supported by two deacons with rods,
Junior Standard bearer,
Grand Standard bearer with drawn sword,
Two stewards with white rods.

The procession marched direct to the center of the lodge room, where the grand honors were given, and the grand officers repaired to their respective stations. "The Lodge" was then placed in front of the altar, toward the east, and the gold and silver vessels and lights were placed around it.

After singing the ode the grand master was informed of the erection of the temple, and asked that it be examined by the grand lodge, and if meeting with his approval that it be solemnly dedicated to Masonic purposes, agreeable to ancient custom.

Brother Willie Titus, who has had the management of the structure, then addressed the grand master, extending thanks for the honor of his appointment, and surrendering the implements which were committed to his care when the foundation of the fabric was laid—the square, level and plumb.

After the ceremony was completed to the order on such occasions the dedication exercises were carried out, after which a fine collation was served in the banquet hall.

THOUSANDS OF VISITORS.
An informal reception was held in the evening, and although only 3,000 invitations were given out, there must have been double that number of visitors who gave the temple a most thorough inspection. The building was crowded from the time of the opening and closing of the doors. Washington's Birthday of 1895 will forever be remembered by the Masonic fraternity.

the number of years since the Christian era, so their date of the founding of Poughkeepsie Lodge is down as May 8, A. L. (the year of lights, 5822). The election of officers in all masonic bodies takes place on St. John's Day, in December, and the officers of Poughkeepsie Lodge for 1895 are George W. Krueger, master; Joseph D. Neal, senior warden; James H. Ostander, junior warden; W. Edgar M. Meeks, treasurer; W. Joseph H. Houtfall, secretary; Jonas W. DuBois, senior deacon; John Carroll, junior deacon; Nathan H. MacFarland, John W. Fleming, steward; William J. Tweedy, Charles F. Schick, masters of ceremonies; Court H. Cunley, marshal; Rev. F. B. Wheeler, Rev. R. H. Travis, lecturers; John Schickler, III., E. O. Fliegler, organist.

Trustees, John Schwartz, Byron L. Heath, W. George W. Krueger, Triune Lodge, No. 783, is an offshoot of Poughkeepsie Lodge, and was instituted October 23, A. L. 5879 (1879). It has always met in the same lodge room with No. 225, in the opera house building, though of course on different evenings, and of the two lodges will continue to meet in the same room; the beautiful new lodge room in the new temple. The officers for 1895 are: George H. Sherman, master; Andreas V. Haight, senior warden; Elias E. Carl, junior warden; James H. Hankley, treasurer; George M. Hine, Peter E. Nour, stewards; Clarence Sague, marshal; Rev. Samuel A. Welkert, Rev. Field Hermon, chaplains; Edgar O. Fliegler, organist; John Schickler, III., trustee; W. Willie Titus, W. George H. Sherman, R. W. Charles E. Schou.

Poughkeepsie Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, was instituted June 11, 1860. Its present officers are: Derrick Brown, high priest; Elias E. Carl, king; Edgar M. Meeks, scribe; John Schwartz, treasurer; W. Krueger, secretary; Rev. R. H. Travis, Rev. F. B. Wheeler, chaplains; John Hingart, junior master of host; Thomas Haggart, principal squire; Byron L. Moore, royal arch captain; David Peterkin, master of 2nd veil; John Lovemine, master of 3rd veil; James H. Ostander, master of 1st veil; John Schickler, III., Edgar O. Fliegler, organist.

Trustees, Derrick Brown, Edgar M. Meeks, Peter L. Van Wageningen. Past High Priests, John Trowbridge, Samuel K. Ripley, Jeremiah V. Wright, Casper L. Odell, William Morgan Lee, Andreas V. Haight, Oliver S. Atkins, P. L. Van Wageningen, Henry Hambruck, Edgar M. Meeks.

Knights Templar date from the Crusades, and Poughkeepsie Commandery was instituted October 21, A. O. 750 (1849). The present officers are: Sir A. V. Haight, eminent commander; Sir E. K. Ripley, generalissimo; Sir George H. Williams, captain general; Sir John Schwartz, treasurer; Em. Sir William Morgan Lee, recorder; Sir and Rev. Field Hermon, prelate; Sir James A. Thompson, senior warden; Sir Charles D. Johnson, junior warden; Sir James H. Ostander, standard bearer; Sir David Peterkin, sword bearer; Sir Willie Titus, warrior; Sir Thomas Haggart, third guard; Sir W. E. Minard, second guard; Sir William Krueger, first guard; Sir Edgar O. Fliegler, organist; Sir John Schickler, sentinel.

Trustees, Em. Sir William Morgan Lee, Em. Sir A. V. Haight, Sir David Peterkin.

Past commanders, John Trowbridge, George E. Cramer, Oliver S. Atkins, James Barlor, William Morgan Lee, Henry Hambruck, Daniel G. Wright, Andreas V. Haight.

THE MASONIC TEMPLE. Laying of the Corner Stone Wednesday.

Impressive Ceremonies—A Large Number of Members of the Order Present—An Eloquent Address by Grand Master E. M. L. Ebers.

The laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple on Cannon Street Wednesday afternoon was the most important event that has ever taken place in the history of masonry in Poughkeepsie. The day was beautiful, and there was a large attendance of members of that order.

Poughkeepsie and Triune lodges met at Masonic Hall at 3:30, and the Grand Lodge officers were received, and, under the supervision of W. Bro. Edgar M. Meeks as marshal, were escorted to the building on Cannon Street, where the ceremonies took place.

The exercises were under the direction of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and the following officers represented the grand body in the ceremonies: Grand Master—E. W. E. M. L. Ebers, Deputy Grand Master—R. W. W. Morgan Lee, Senior Grand Warden—R. W. Charles E. Schou, Junior Grand Warden—W. Bro. Geo. W. Krueger, Grand Treasurer—W. Bro. George H. Sherman, Grand Secretary—W. Bro. Joseph H. Houtfall.

Grand Chaplains—Rev. F. B. Wheeler and Rev. R. H. Travis. Grand Marshals—Rev. Derrick Brown. Grand Standard Bearer—W. Bro. A. R. Haskin. Grand Sword Bearer—W. Bro. E. Lange. Grand Stewards—W. Bro. S. Fowler, E. O. Hopkins, O. B. Atkins. Senior and Junior Grand Deacons—W. Bro. W. H. Sheehan, W. Bro. P. L. Van Wageningen. Grand Architect—W. Bro. Willie Titus.

The ceremonies opened by a command for attention given by the grand marshal. Announcement of the work to be done was then made, and prayer was offered by the grand chaplain.

The grand treasurer announced that a box had been prepared for the corner stones, and the grand secretary read a list of the articles placed in the box. The following is the list:
Holy Bible, constitution and statutes of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York, reports of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge 1894, State of New York, report of the Grand Chapter, R. A. M., 1894, report of the Grand Commandery, K. T., 1894, by-laws and roster of Poughkeepsie Lodge No. 266, F. & A. M., by laws and roster of Triune Lodge No. 783, F. & A. M., by-laws and roster of Poughkeepsie Chapter No. 273, R. A. M., by-laws and roster of Poughkeepsie Commandery No. 25, K. T., constitution, by-laws and roster of the Masonic Mutual Beneficial Association of Dutchess County, white lamb skin apron, gavel formerly used by the masters of the Poughkeepsie Lodge No. 266, medals of the Masonic Home, Utica, N. Y., Columbian Centennial, medals, coins and Testament found in the Grand Street M. E. Church, miscellaneous papers, etc., silk American flag, a copy of the Poughkeepsie city directory of 1894, annual reports of city government for 1894, World Almanac of 1894, American Tyler of September 23, 1894, Free Mason's Journal, Free Mason's Repository, and copies of all the daily, weekly and Sunday papers published in the city.
The corner stone is the gift of Brother