

**BROKEN ARROW LODGE NO. 243
100TH BIRTHDAY**

DEAR LODGE BROTHER:

ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10, 2005 BROKEN ARROW LODGE WILL CELEBRATE ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY. OUR GRAND MASTER, WILLIAM OWEN, WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO HELP WITH THIS CELEBRATION. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND AND SHOW THE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS AND THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW THAT WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THIS SPECIAL DATE. WE WILL SERVE REFRESHMENTS STARTING AT 6:30 PM THE PROGRAM WILL START ABOUT 7:30 PM. BROTHER STUART LOUGH IS PREPARING A VERY INFORMATIVE PROGRAM THAT REFLECTS THE HISTORY OF OUR LODGE IN THIS COMMUNITY.

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS DESIGNED A COIN AND DECAL TO COMMEMORATE OUR BIRTHDAY WHICH IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR PLEASURE. PLEASE DISPLAY IT WITH PRIDE BECAUSE YOU ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE HISTORY OF BROKEN ARROW NO. 243. WE ARE ASKING OUR MEMBERS FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF MINTING THE COIN AND THE MAILING

OUR LODGE BUILDING IS GETTING IN NEED OF MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE ROOF AND UTILITY SYSTEMS. THE OFFICERS JOIN ME IN STRESSING THE NEED FOR THE REPAIRS IF WE ARE TO CELEBRATE FUTURE BIRTHDAYS IN BROKEN ARROW. I REALIZE THAT EACH MEMBER GETS ASKED FOR DONATIONS TO ALL TYPES OF GOOD CAUSES; HOWEVER, I ASK THAT YOU HELP AS MUCH AS YOUR ABILITY PERMITS.

FRATERNALLY:

CHARLES SEGRESS
WORSHIPFUL MASTER

FISH FRY - How Many People?

*Work Day - August 9
O.E.S. to CLEAN INSIDE - Aug 4 & 5
RAY McLAIN WASHED Front Windows
Someone cut the WEEDS!!!*

HISTORY OF BROKEN ARROW LODGE TO 1936

Received from Tulsa Scottish Rite

"W.M. and Brethren: I have been requested by the W.M. to give you a brief sketch of the history of B.A. Lodge. In my opinion, the most interesting period in the life of any organization is its early and formative existence.

In going back into the early life of this lodge, it was only natural that it would lead me to a man who is no doubt the patriarch of B.A. Lodge, a man who is the only member of this lodge at the present time who was also a charter member at its formation. A man who is beloved and respected by all his brethren and who was produced and reared in conditions and surroundings that bred true masons and where masonry really meant something. This brother was born in Scotland in 1853 and came to this country at the age of four years with his family, who settled in Ohio in the coal mining regions. At the age of about 13 years, he with his family moved to Nebraska, where they pioneered in the then Indian country of the Northwest and in those days of the middle sixties, pioneering meant exactly that in a country where only the fit could survive and even they could not without the sincere and unselfish help and assistance given each other by friends and neighbors, which after all is only a carrying out of the principles of masonry.

This brother moved in Broken Arrow, I.T. in 1903 and embarked on another period of pioneering in a new and unsettled country. The other morning I spent about as pleasant a two hours as I have ever known listening to him recount his experiences. He told me how when he first came here there was no Masonic lodge but there were a few masons who in one or another would discover each other to be masons. At first they were a little suspicious of the genuineness of the other fellows' claims of being a mason because they had all come from widely different sections of the country and as you know the Masonic work differs somewhat in each state or territory, so it was a bit difficult sometimes to convince each other that they were both masons but finally they were able to satisfy each other and so a small group in time got to know and associate with each other as masons.

This brother has a long and honorable record as a mason. He having been Master of a lodge and has two sons who are masons, one of whom is a past master of this lodge and is now Worthy Patron of O.E. S. His good wife, to whom he has been married 58 years, is a Past Worthy Matron of the local chapter of O.E.S., as are also two daughters and a daughter-in-law. He has been, until the last few years, until the infirmities of age prevented a leader and supporter in practically every movement that had for its object the settlement of social and living conditions in the community.

It may be that by this time you have begun to suspect that I have lost sight of the original purpose of my assignment and that I am indulging in a eulogy of one man. But to my mind this brother represents all that is best in masonry and I believe that all who know him will agree that in honoring a man of this kind we are also honoring ourselves.

So at this time I will say that it is not only a rare privilege but also a genuine pleasure to me to be able to introduce to you, my friend and brother William G. McGechie.

Back in the early days of 1903, while Broken Arrow was still largely a city of tents and a few frame buildings, a small group of men who had discovered a common interest in Masonry, met together and decided that they would better serve their community and their order by forming a lodge at Broken Arrow. They therefore applied to the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory for a charter. Under date of the 11th day of December 1903, they were granted a dispensation to hold and conduct a lodge and confer the several degrees of masonry.

I would like to read you the minutes of the first meeting on December 25, 1903, held in the Orcutt Building, a two story frame building that stood just west of where the Farmers Trading Co. Building now stands. This building was one of the very few frame buildings in Broken Arrow at that time and the upper floor was used for all group gatherings.

(read minutes from record of first meeting)

On the 10th day of August (1904), a charter was granted to Broken Arrow Lodge #141. I will read you a part of the minutes of meeting of September 3, 1904.

In the minutes of the meeting of July 22, 1904 is found the following item: "Moved and seconded and carried that this lodge lay the corner stone of our Brick Schoolhouse with the usual Masonic Ceremonies". I find nothing in the records of this having been done but it was done as we could tell from the inscription on the corner stone. This brick school house formerly occupied what is now the site of our present grade & junior high building. You can see from the evident pride with which the words "Brick School House" were used that even at that early date, Broken Arrow was taking on metropolitan airs.

Two items that appear in the minutes of meeting of September 8, 1905 indicate that the brothers of that day were imbued with proper gallantry and respect for the comfort of the ladies, although they did not fail to charge them for it. First item; A committee sent by the O.E.S. asks to know what amount of rent this lodge will charge them for use of the lodge room. Said committee ordered to report to said O.E.S. that the amount of \$2.50 would be charged per month for said room. Second item; The trustees of the lodge were ordered to purchase and put down a carpet on floor of lodge room as early as there was funds available for such purposes. Also the following; "A motion to furnish cuspidors for the ante-room and that all parties who chew tobacco shall return to said room when chewing or smoking" was tabled.

There are a number of interesting items appearing in the records of the lodge that lack of time prevents mention at this time.

In 1918, the lodge having saved about \$1,200.00 through purchase of Liberty Bonds during the war, there began an agitation by some of the members for the purchase by the lodge of a home. This resulted in the appointment on February 5, 1919 by W.M. George A Smith of a building committee composed of the following Brothers; T.M. Hunsecker, J.L. Greene and L.J. Barth. August 6th, this committee was authorized to secure and option on some suitable building for the lodge and to devise some method of raising the purchase money. The result of the committee's efforts appears in the following item from the minutes of meeting of September 3, 1919. Brother L.J. Barth reported for the Building Committee that a contract had been entered into for the purchase of the Allen Building and a deposit of \$500.00 made thereon for consideration being \$6,000.00. That is the present home of Broken Arrow Lodge.

At this time, I want to say that no more faithful, generous and cooperative group will be found than the masons of Broken Arrow have always shown themselves.

The building venture was financed by selling \$3,150.00 worth of non-interest bearing bonds of \$100.00 and \$50.00 denomination to members of the lodge and making a note for \$3,000.00 to Mrs. Lydia Whitenack. The note that has just recently been retired. With the money thus secured, we proceeded with the purchase and remodeling of the building for the use of the lodge. During the 16 ½ years that have elapsed since this time the lodge has spent about \$2,000.00 in improving and remodeling the lower part of the building which is leased for mercantile purposes.

In the minutes of the meeting of April 11th, 1926 appears the following item: "Motion was made by Brother Perry Woods and seconded by Brother Ray Cuddy, resolved that the secretary be and hereby is authorized and directed to issue a warrant in the some of one thousand thirty two dollars and fifty cents for the purpose of retiring the one thousand dollar balance of a note given October 24, 1919 by this lodge to Mrs. Lydia Whitenack, together with accrued interest of thirty two dollars and fifty cents. This note to be retired on or before April 24, 1936. On vote of the lodge, the foregoing motion was adopted.

In view of the fact that Broken Arrow Lodge has always contributed 100 percent to the requirements and requests of the Grand Lodge and has provided for the charitable demands that have been made on us, you will no doubt pardon us if we seem to be in a particularly proud and celebrating mood tonight.

*Signed: J.L. Greene, Secy
April 21, 1936*

In January 1905, a committee of J. B. Parkinson, G.L. Holt and H.L. Pierce were appointed to secure a new meeting hall. The Lodge approved renting a hall over the Lancaster, McAnally and Co. store at a rate of \$3.00 per month. Meeting halls must have been at a premium in those early years. In September 1905, the lodge moved to a hall owned by Mr. S.M. Allen. In January 1907, Mr. Allen wanted \$18.00 per month rent so in February the Lodge contracted a hall from Lancaster, McAnally, Sanders & Co. for \$52.00 per year and apparently moved back to the original hall rented.

After Oklahoma Statehood, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Indian Territory and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Oklahoma Territory merged into the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the State of Oklahoma.

Special Dispensation was issued on February 11, 1909 by H. L. Muldrow, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A. M. of the State of Oklahoma to Broken Arrow Lodge #243, A.F. & A.M. to replace the original charter for Lodge #141 in Indian Territory.

The Lodge grew in membership and in 1919 they had 120 members and at that time the Lodge was able to purchase its own building. They purchased the building, which contained the Allen Hall previously rented. This was the Masonic Hall until 1974 when the Lodge purchased the Broken Arrow School District Administrative offices and remodeled the interior to be suitable for Masonic events.

HISTORY OF THE BROKEN ARROW MASONIC LODGE (continued)

Josiah B. PARKINSON demitted from Mississippi Lodge #385 when he came to Broken Arrow from Savannah, Illinois. He was the third publisher of the *Broken Arrow Ledger* and the city's first mayor. In 1904 he started a beautification project, digging trees from creek beds and planting them within the city limits. He became Master of the Broken Arrow Lodge for 1912 and served as Secretary from 1914 through 1917.

Richard A. WALLER apparently owned the Owl Drug Company. In 1903 he moved into a new home on east Commercial, and was elected an alderman to the city council as well as serving as Junior Warden of the Lodge where he became Master for 1905-1906.

Hiram L. PIERCE, served as Lodge treasurer under dispensation and continued in that position after the official organization. He was elected to Broken Arrow's first Board of Education in 1903 and served the city as mayor from June 1904 to June 1905.

Granville L. HOLT was a lawyer with his office above Holt's Drug on South Main Street. In 1903 he acted as the authorized agent on behalf of the petition signers for Broken Arrow's incorporation. He was also elected to and became the first president of the Board of Education. The following year he was elected trustee of the First Missionary Baptist Church. He and his wife Sally were members of the Order of the Eastern Star where he served as Worthy Patron in 1907 with Worthy Matron Mrs. Emma BLAIR.

William G. MCGECHIE was one of the first Stewards of the Lodge and also served as chaplain. He emigrated with his parents from Scotland in 1857. They settled first in Ohio and then Nebraska where William became a pharmacist, (not a dentist as stated in the Schmidt history). In 1902 he claimed 320- acres on the southwest corner of 81st. (Houston) Street and 161st. East Ave (Elm Place). Surrounding the land with cedar trees brought from Nebraska he pioneered Cedar Ridge Dairy. He was active in the development of the community, hauled lumber from Catoosa to build the Methodist church, assisted in establishing several other churches as well as Haskell State School. He and his wife Anne were members of the Order of the Eastern Star. In 1906 he was the second Worthy Patron of Chapter #140 and served again in that position in 1911 and 1912.

Of the three remaining officers of the first Broken Arrow Masonic Lodge, little is known.

Editor's Note: Apparently the lodge was redesignated as #243 in 1909. More information including names of officers through 1991 may be found in a notebook at the Genealogical Society Library, copied and donated by Richard Guse from a Broken Arrow Historical Society history.

THIS 'N' THAT

The Muskogee Genealogical Society is sponsoring their first annual Ancestor Fair on Saturday October 6, 2001 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 W. Okmulgee. There is no charge.

BRIEF HISTORY OF BROKEN ARROW LODGE

The Masonic Lodge was not the first fraternal organization in town, but it appears it was there very early. Three Masonic brothers, Dr. R.S. Plumlee, J.B. Parkinson and Frank C. Boles, met on May 11, 1903 in the hall over the Hill Mercantile Store and made preliminary arrangements to organize a Masonic Lodge in Broken Arrow.

*On June 8, 1903, the three brethren and Brother G.L. Holt went to Catoosa to meet with some Masons to establish contact with a traveling representative of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory. Dr. Plumlee made a trip to Catoosa on November 19, 1903 to meet with B.G. Martin, the Grand Lecturer of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. All Masons were invited to attend lectures by Mr. Martin in hope of organizing a Lodge at the conclusion of the lectures. **Broken Arrow Lodge U.D.** was formed on December 10, 1903 to Roscoe S. Plumlee W.M., Josiah B. Parkinson, Robert A Waller and twelve (12) others. The Dispensation was issued by order of Phillip Doddridge Brewer, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons and attested by Samuel Morrow under the seal of the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory.*

The Worshipful Master R.S. Plumlee appointed the following brethren to offices:

<i>Hiram L. Pierce</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Granville L. Holt</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Lemuel P. Hooks</i>	<i>Senior Deacon</i>
<i>J. T. Darland</i>	<i>Junior deacon</i>
<i>W.G. McGechie</i>	<i>Senior Steward</i>
<i>Oscar Crawford</i>	<i>Junior Steward</i>
<i>William C. Adkison</i>	<i>Tyler</i>

The first meeting held on December 25, 1903 established that the meetings would be held on Friday Evening on or before each full moon. The regular fees for each degree would be ten dollars (\$10.00) and the annual dues would be two dollars (\$2.00).

Laying cornerstones for public buildings is a very meaningful Masonic event and the opportunity came to the new Broken Arrow Lodge U.D. in August 1904. On August 7, 1904, W.M. Plumlee, under special dispensation by Grand Master Phillip Brewer, opened lodge for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of the public school building. Several other organizations were present and took part in the ceremonies.

The Grand Lodge of Indian Territory granted the Charter to Broken Arrow Lodge No. 141, A.F. & A.M. dated August 10, 1904. A special communication of this Lodge was held on September 3, 1904 and J.T. Walrond, Special Deputy of the Grand Master, placed the Constitution and the Gavel in the hands of Worshipful Master Plumlee. Thus, Broken Arrow Lodge #141, A.F. & A.M. was constituted.

LIBRARY NEWS (continued)

Microfilm

1830 Federal Census, Tennessee: McNairy County (part) pages 116-152 and Obion County (part) pages 153-170

1790 Federal Census, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia,

Donated by Tulsa Genealogical Society Library

Vertical file

Notes and sources of information on these families were donated by Dr. Richard Zirkle:

William MILLER, HOWELL, CALDWELL, WATKINS, Early HINTONS of England, BOONE FAMILY, ALEXANDER & SAMUEL MILLER, ROSE/CLARK FAMILY and the SCHAEFFER / SHAVER FAMILY

HISTORY OF THE BROKEN ARROW MASONIC LODGE

(Abstracted from information compiled by Hans Schmidt, 1991
and indexed by Richard Guse, 2001)

"The Grand Lodge of Indian Territory, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons established at Caddo in the Indian Territory.... the fifth day of October in the year of our Lord 1874....being assembledat Claremore in the Indian Territory....authorize and empower....Roscoe Sherman PLUMLEE, Master; Josiah B. PARKINSON, Senior Warden; Richard A. WALLER, Junior Warden and Frank C. BOLES, John B. GILLIS, David BALLOW, James Thomas DARLAND, Likurgus CRAWFORD, Granville L. HOLT, Hiram L. PIERCE, Oscar CRAWFORD, William G. McGECHIE, Wm. Columbus ADKINSON, Albert J. POLLARD, and Lemuel P.; HOOKS to open and hold Lodge, designated by Number "141", and by the name of "Broken Arrow Lodge" under our Register and Jurisdiction, in the town of Broken Arrow, Indian Territory....this tenth day of August, 1904...

Attest: Joseph Samuel MURROW, Grand Secretary; Leo Edmond BENNETT, Grand Treasurer and Phillip Doddridge BREWER, Grand Master."

Prior to the August 1904 meeting that authorized formation of the lodge new settlers who were or wanted to be Masons met in the spring of 1903 to frame a petition to the Grand Lodge for permission to organize a local entity. In December 1903 permission was granted to organize as Broken Arrow Lodge U. D. under a special dispensation. Organizers were the first officers and members as listed above.

In 1903 Dr. Roscoe Sherman PLUMLEE, first Master of the lodge, was a physician and surgeon with an office in the Cottage Bakery Building. He was a member of the Broken Arrow Woodmen; treasurer of the Broken Arrow Medical Society; alderman on the first city council; and treasurer of the Commercial Club which became the Chamber of Commerce. Plumlee started building a home that year but does not appear in the 1904 census of Broken Arrow and demitted (removed his membership) from the Lodge in October 1905.