

CHAPTER XXXII.

VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

TRINITY LODGE of Free and Accepted Masons* was organized under a charter dated January 30. 1778.† This was

* For the facts herein recorded we are indebted to "History of Old Trinity Lodge of Lancaster, Mass.," by Jonathan Smith, and to a chapter on Masonic History, written by the same author for the "History of Worcester County."

†[L. s.] JOS: WEBB G. M.
MOSES DESHON D. G. M.

*To all to whom JOSEPH WEBB ESQ Grand Master, of
. . . . Antient Free & Accp duly authorized, & Appointed, &
in Ample form Installed, together with his Grand Wardens,
Sendeth GREETING:*

WHEREAS a Petition has been presented to us by Michael Newell, Edm^d Heard, James Wilder, Jonas Prescott, & Richard Perkins Bridge, All Antient, Free & Accepted Masons, resident in LANCASTER, in the County of Worcester, in Massachusetts STATE, in New England, Praying, that they, with such others as may think proper to join them, may be erected, and constituted, a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the name, Title & designation, of the TRINITY LODGE, with full power, to enter apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, and raise MASTER MASONS, which Petition, appearing to us as tending to the advancement of Antient MASONRY, and the general good of the CRAFT, have unanimously agreed, the Prayer thereof should be granted.

KNOW YE, therefore, that we, the Grand Master, & Wardens, by virtue of the power and authority aforesaid, & reposing special Trust & Confidence in the prudence, fidelity & Skill in Masonry, of our Beloved Brethren above named; Have constituted, appointed, and by these Presents, Do constitute & appoint them the said Michael Newell, Edmund Heard, James Wilder, Jonas Prescott, & Richard Perkins Bridge,

the fifth charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Michael Newhall, whose name appears first on the charter, was doubtless foremost in starting the order in Lancaster.

a regular Lodge, of Free & accepted Masons, under the name, Title & designation of Trinity Lodge :—

Hereby giving and granting, unto them, & their Successors, full power and authority, to meet & convene as Masons, within the Town of Lancaster, aforesaid; to receive & Enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, & raise Master Masons, upon the payment of such moderate composition for the same, as may hereafter be determined by said LODGE : also to make choice of a Master, Wardens & other Office Bearers annually or otherwise as they shall see Cause ; To receive & collect Funds, for the relief of Poor & decay'd Brethren, their widows or Children, & in general to transact, all matters relating to MASONRY, which may to them appear to be for the benefit of the Craft, According to the Antient Usages & Customs of MASONS; And we do hereby require, the said constituted Brethren, to attend at the GRAND LODGE or Quarterly Communications, by themselves, or their PROXIES (w^{ch} are their Master and Wardens for the time being), and also to keep a fair and regular record of all their Proceedings, & to lay the same before the GRAND LODGE when required.

And we do hereby enjoin upon our said Brethren, to behave themselves respectfully & obediently to their superiors in office and not to desert their said LODGE without the leave of their Master & Wardens;— And we do declare the Precedence of the said Lodge, in the GRAND LODGE & elsewhere, to commence from the date of these presents, & require all Antient Masons, Especially of those holding of this Grand Lodge, to acknowledge & receive them & their Successors, as Regular Constituted FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS, and treat them accordingly.

GIVEN, under our hands & the seal of the GRAND LODGE affixed, at BOSTON, New England, this Thirtieth day of Jan^y in the year of our Lord 1778, and of Masonry 5778.

THOMAS URANN G S^d
 WINTHROP GRAY G. T.
 JOHN SYMMES G. S. B.

THOMAS CRAFTS S. G. D.
 EDWARD PROCTER J. G. D.
 SAMUEL BARRETT S. G. W.
 PAUL REVERE J. G. W.

Received Nine pounds for the fees of this Charter.

JOHN LOWELL G. T.

Received one P^d ten shillings for drawing this Charter & record of the same.

JAMES CARTER G. Sec^y P. T.

Jonas Prescott* is the only one of the charter members who had his home in this community. March 5, 1779, thirty-nine men had become members; in 1783, as many as seventy. At first, the jurisdiction of the Lodge was very extensive, but the formation of new lodges in Worcester, Framingham, Ashby and Groton reduced it nearly to its present territory. It is not known where the meetings were held during the first year, but by the beginning of the second, a hall had been fitted up in a building which stood where Daniel M. Howard's residence now stands. From 1796 to 1799, the Lodge probably had its hall in a house on Main Street in North Lancaster. This house is now owned by William Powers. Quarters were afterwards occupied successively in the Merrick Rice house, in the Lancaster House, and over John G. Thurston's store. These early halls were furnished much more simply than those of today. Until September, 1787, the meetings were held on the first Monday of each month, from four to eight o'clock P. M. Then, meetings were held on the first Tuesday of alternate months, beginning at six P. M., until February, 1790, then, every month from six to ten until 1792, and then, the hour was again set at four P. M.

Of these meetings, Mr. Jonathan Smith says: "Among Masons it needs no vivid imagination to picture the character or the delights of those gatherings among men bound together by masonic ties and imbued with the fraternal and social principles of the order. Coming from their scattered and isolated homes, from the hard toil of their farms and shops, they found that satisfaction and pleasure which men craving close and friendly intercourse with each other could easily find within the charmed circle of brethren bound to one another by the fraternal chords of the mystic tie."

There was a special observation of the festival of St. John the Evangelist in December, and also of the feast of St. John the Baptist, June 24th. The latter was public, and an appro-

* See further account of his life by aid of index.

as given by some clergyman. The Masons of looked upon Washington with the deepest both was the occasion of an impressive February 22, 1800. In addition to Jonas were four other men from this section who of the Lodge. These were John Prescott, 5th, could, John Hunt and Thomas W. Lyon. Elisha may also have been a resident of the community east the river at the time of his membership. Levi Greene became a member of this old lodge in the last years of its existence. The masters were as follows: Michael Newhall, 1778; Edmund Heard, 1779-83, 1789-92 and part of '93; Timothy Whiting, Jr., 1784, '85, '87, part of '93, '94 and '97; Ephraim Carter, 1786; Abijah Wyman, 1788; John Maynard, 1795, '96, 1801; Abraham Haskell, 1798; Moses Thomas, 1799; Amos Johnson, 1800; Joel Pratt, Luke Bigelow, John G. Thurston and Calvin Carter subsequently held this office.

No records of the old Trinity Lodge were kept after 1800, and therefore we know little of its history from this time.

The "Morgan" trouble created less excitement in this region than in some other sections of the country, yet it caused the society to become unpopular, and after 1832, no more meetings were held. Mr. Smith says: "Though as an organization it had come to an end, the principles of masonry which it taught, had not suffered. These never decay nor become obsolete, their meaning never changes, their influence, when practiced, never ceases to impress and enoble the character. Their foundation is truth; they enjoy the cultivation of friendship, brotherly love, morality, and universal benevolence; their result, when incorporated into life and conduct, the perfect man."

At a meeting held at Harris Hall, over C. W. Field's tenement, September 8, 1858, the first formal steps were taken for reviving the old lodge or establishing a new one. Henry Bowman, Alfred A. Burditt and George L. Thurston were leaders in this movement. Since it was found to be the

opinion of the secretary of the Grand Lodge that old Trinity Lodge could not be revived, it was voted at a meeting held one week later, to ask for a dispensation for a new lodge in Clinton, to be called Trinity Lodge. This dispensation was received and accepted September 29, 1858. E. Dana Bancroft of Ayer was chosen Worthy Master. The charter was dated September 8, 1859, and received September 21st. The charter members were Henry Bowman, Alfred A. Burditt, Daniel Marsh, George L. Thurston, Charles W. Odiorne, Luke Bigelow, Levi Greene, Josiah H. Vose and Henry Eddy. The first list of officers under this charter were as follows: Henry Bowman, W. M.; Alfred A. Burditt, S. W.; George L. Thurston, J. W.; Josiah H. Vose, Treas.; Henry Eddy, Secy.; Samuel T. Bigelow, S. D.; Daniel Marsh, J. D.; John T. Buzzell, S. S.; Amos A. Pevey, J. S.; Gilman M. Palmer, Marshal; Levi Greene, Tyler.

Harris Hall was leased and continued to be the meeting place of the order until April 6, 1869. The masters of the lodge who have come within the scope of our history have been: E. Dana Bancroft, 1858-9, under dispensation; Henry Bowman, 1859-60; Alfred A. Burditt, 1860-61-62, 1863-64, 1873-74; Josiah H. Vose, 1862-63; Levi Greene, 1864-65-66; Daniel Marsh, 1866-67; George W. Burdett, 1867-68; Henry N. Bigelow, 1868-69; Charles W. Ware, 1869-70; Charles F. Greene, 1870-71 (died in office); Daniel B. Ingalls, part of 1871, 1872-73.

The Lancaster Lodge, No. 89, I. O. O. F., was instituted August 29, 1845. The charter members were John B. Atkinson, John M. Pratt, William A. Tower, Calvin Maynard, Steven H. Turner, Lory F. Bancroft, Elisha Turner, George Fred Chandler, Horatio N. Sweet, J. C. Parsons, A. L. Sawyer and Daniel Haverty. No one took a deeper interest in the new organization than J. B. Atkinson, our Clintonville tailor. Hon. Charles G. Stevens and Dr. George M. Morse were members of this early society. The first list of officers

was as follows: John B. Atkinson, N. G.; John M. Pratt, V. G.; W. A. Tower, Secy.; Calvin Holman, Treas.; Elijah Sawyer, Warden; G. W. Howe, Conductor; A. L. Sawyer, O. G.; J. C. Parsons, I. G.; S. H. Turner, R. S. N. G.; L. F. Bancroft, L. S. N. G.; G. F. Chandler, R. S. V. G.; Elisha Turner, L. S. V. G.; Horatio N. Sweet, R. S. S.; J. S. Carr, L. S. S.

The first year, the meetings were held in a hall connected with the hotel in North Lancaster. September 2, 1846, Nashua Hall in South Lancaster was dedicated. The Lodge was financially prosperous and prompt in paying its sick and funeral benefits. The spirit of charity which prevailed in the order often found occasion for expression.

On October 15, 1851, the Lodge having abandoned Nashua Hall, held its first meeting in Harris Hall, Clinton. Regular meetings were held here during the next year; but in October, 1852, it was found desirable to surrender the charter. The final meeting was held in Nashua Hall, October 16th. The Lancaster Lodge was not reinstated until October 4, 1871.

In the early years of our community the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage was well nigh universal. It was as customary for the farmers and millwrights to lay in their regular stock of cider, as it was to secure the winter's supply of vegetables and meats. New England or West India rum was as common an article of merchandise as molasses. Intemperance found many victims on account of this indulgence. Even before the Washingtonian Movement began, there were a few earnest temperance men in District No. 10 who recognized the need of reform. In the early thirties, the first recorded temperance society of Factory Village was organized by a body of young men who felt that association would make it easier for them to resist the drinking habit. Eben Howard was the president of this society. E. K. Gibbs was next in office. James Pitts and Robert Phelps were among the members. Most of the original sign-