

LE ROY MASONIC TEMPLE OPEN

Property is Fine Home for the Fraternity

CHARACTER OF THE VARIOUS ROOMS

Building, Which is Remodeled Church of Universalist Society, Is on Site of the Famous Masonic "Round House"—Some History Recalled

Le Roy, Jan. 8.—The new Masonic Temple in this village, the property of the Olive Branch Lodge, No. 39, has just been opened for use. For the past year the work of remodeling the building, which is now complete with the exception of the basement, has been going forward steadily, and the results are very satisfactory.

It was one year ago last July that Olive Branch Lodge purchased of the Universalist Society its church, on Main street, it not having been used for church services for some time. The building is a substantial brick structure two stories high and is centrally located. The interior has been greatly changed and now presents a handsome appearance. A large amount of money has been expended in fitting it up.

The lodge room is finished in green and white and the wainscoting is of dark oak. The sides are of a deep green color and the ceiling of a lighter green, while there is a cornice of ivory. A handsome green carpet of velvet covers the floor and the room is lighted with electric lights in a handsome chandelier.

The anterooms are also finished in oak and the walls of these are of a light brown. In the anteroom facing Main street, is a beautiful memorial window to the memory of John H. Lent, who was one of the early members of the lodge. The appointments of the rooms throughout are in keeping with the refined taste which characterizes the temple. The whole is a credit to the committee, John P. Sampson, Walter H. Smith, and L. W. Steuber, which had the work in charge. As soon as possible the lower floor will be fitted up into a dining room, kitchen and smoking room with all conveniences.

There is an interesting bit of history connected with this temple, which makes it especially prized by the members of the lodge. It was on this very site that the famous old "Round House," which was erected by the Masons in the year 1826, stood, and many of the bricks of the old structure are still in the walls of the present building.

It was about 1825 that the Masons of Le Roy and vicinity, who had been holding their meetings in various places, conceived the idea of having a structure which should [would] be a credit to the fraternity, so plans were adopted for the old "Round House." This was circular in form and of three stories. The upper room was a sort of dome, and this room was known as the "sounding room," because every noise made in it would echo and re-echo. It is said that the pounding of a hammer on the floor was a good

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imitation of thunder, and it was this room where the ceremonies of the lodge were to take place.

At the front of the building, facing the street, was a tower of three stories, and above this a belfry. As it had no bell for a time, a huge triangle was used for this purpose and was suspended in the belfry. It made a very harsh tone. This was obtained from old St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where it did service before a bell was given to the church. Later a bell was placed in the tower.

Before the building was completed the Morgan episode took place, so that the building was never used for the purpose for which it was intended. However, it stood on the site about thirty years. It served several uses, being used for several years as a schoolhouse and by different religious bodies. In 1860 the property was purchased by the Universalist Society, and the famous old building was torn down to give place to the present structure. After the Morgan episode feeling ran so high that the Masonic charter was surrendered, and for about twenty years Masonry lay dormant in Le Roy. Since that time, however, the lodge has flourished, and at the present time it has a very large membership.

The present officers of the lodge are: Master, Dr. R. Lee Skinner; senior warden, William A. Heaman; junior warden, Thomas Watson; Treasurer, John C. [B__?]; secretary, L. W. Steuber; chaplain, Rev. Pierre Cushing; senior deacon, W. A. Hubbard; junior deacon, H. S. Falkner; senior master of ceremonies, Thomas Heaman; junior master of ceremonies, F. C. Rogers; stewards, F. E. Smith and E. M. Perkins; [?rier], C. W. Walker.

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Thu. 9 Jan 1908

Transcribed on 26 Nov 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY