# Sotoyome Curtis Lodge

No. 123



F. & A. M.

1857 - 2007

Healdsburg, California

MEETS FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT

### Sotopome Lodge



NO. 123, F. & A. M.

MASONIC TEMPLE

HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA



Major S. Phillips, Master Sotovome Lodge No. 123

As we celebrate our one-hundredth anniversary, I am humbly grateful for the privilege of serving you during this historic year. However, it is to those 26 valiant pioneers of Healdsburg who carried letters of recommendation from their Grand Lodges whence they came, and who gathered together as a nucleus of Sotoyome Lodge #123; to those hearty forefathers of ours we are indebted for this centennial observance.

On the 19th day of December, 1857, when their dispensation was granted, vigilantes were the law of the land. They had not witnessed the birth of the "Pony Express", the telegraph, the Civil War and the subsequent emancipation of the slaves, the telephone, transcontinental railroads, the electric light, the "horseless carriage", the airplane, radio, television, two world wars, the Atomic Age; nor the latest, the intercontinental ballistic missile.

To us their progeny, those early settlers brought the traditions of masonry; brotherly love, relief and truth; together with the teaching of the virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice.

To those charter members, and to their succeeding past masters through the century, who have preserved for us the ancient customs and usages of the Fraternity: To their efforts we are indebted for the high esteem in which our Institution is held today, and it is to those brethren that we do dedicate this brochure.

Major S. Phieigs
Worshipful Master

# Foreword

# The Centennial Committee





E deem it an honor, and a privilege for the members of this committee, to have been delegated the task, to collect and compile the historical material of Sotoyome Lodge No. 123, covering its 100 years of existence.

It is the purpose of this publication to review certain events of a century ago, and also to memorialize many outstanding Masons who, through the years, have contributed to the splendid tradition, and fine reputation of Sotoyome Lodge.

Much more could have been written if our records were in existence. We have corresponded with relatives of our early members to be certain of specific histories and facts. In a large measure information has depended on the memory of older members. It is inevitable that some mistakes may creep in. We believe that the material which has been gathered, is as nearly accurate as is possible under such difficult circumstances.

To all those members who have contributed of their time and efforts in the preparation of this booklet, we extend to them our sincere and fraternal appreciation and thanks.

We extend to all our future brethren and especially the historians who will perform such a duty as this in the year 2057, our sincere greetings.

Sotoyome Lodge No. 123, Centennial Committee.

Albert D. Agostini. General Chairman.



Ottmer Building West and North Street 1898 — 1915



Present Temple Center and Powell Streets
1915 —To Date

# History

HE area around the present town of Healdsburg was settled well over a hundred years ago. At that time the Spanish and Mexican Governments were in control of the area. "It was the green part of California. It was the land of tall redwood trees and tall wild grass. It was an area blessed by nature, where the

Indians grew lazy and fat because there were plenty of elk, bear, ducks, salmon, trout, squirrels, and rabbits."

"The climate was mild, tempered by the ocean breezes coming over the low ridges, the shoreline being but twenty-five miles to the west. Here was the Russian River, the only coast stream of any size crossing the expanse of land clear from San Deigo and beyond. Surrounding this area of beauty were fertile valleys with numerous streams and springs. All about were the mountains and the foothills with their grassy trout, squirrels, and rabbits.

In 1851 Harmon G. Heald located the present site of Healdsburg, there being no house of any description within several miles except the adobe buildings at the Sotoyome or Fitch ranch, on the east side of the Russian River (the same occupied by Cyrus Alexander in 1840).

The first trading post was started in 1852 by Harmon Heald and his brother George. In 1856 Harmon Heald purchased a tract of land from the H. D. Fitch estate, and laid out the town. About this time the first post office of Russian River changed its name to Healdsburg. On the 20th day of November, 1857, the population was reported at five hundred. There was an Academy Building for one hundred twenty-five students, a fire company, a Masonic Hall, Sons of Temperance and Concert Hall, in all about one hundred and twenty houses.

The settlers of the area represented men of all types. Thus it is not surprising that a number of Master Masons were found to be among them. In due time, they were banded together and applied to the Grand Lodge of California in 1857 for dispensation. Grand Master N. Greene Curtis, issued a dispensation on December 19, 1857. The first meeting of Sotoyome Lodge U. D. was held on January 23, 1858, with John N. Bailhache serving as Master. At the Ninth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of California a Charter was issued to Sotoyome Lodge No. 123 dated May 13, 1858. The first meeting under the new Charter was held on May 30, 1858.

It is plain that from the time of its organization, Sotoyome Lodge filled a Masonic need in the Healdsburg Area. It more than doubled its membership in its first ten years. Even during the Civil War years it flourished, increasing from 40 members in 1861 to 47 in 1865. By 1900 it had an enrollment of 112. Further gains during the next two decades carried it to 228 in 1920. A slight loss after that, however, left it on the threshold of the great depression in 1930 with 215. Between then and 1940 it declined thirty-one percent to 148. By 1949 membership had climbed back to 182 and was on a definite upswing. At the end of the centennial year, the membership of Sotoyome Lodge stood at an all-time high of 230.

# Past Masters of Sotoyome Lodge



JOHN N. BAILHACHE 1857-58-59-61-80



JOSEPH ALBERTSON 1860-63-64



BLEISTEN NEWMAN 1862

PICTURE UNOBTAINABLE



DONALD M. JOHNSON 1865-66

PICTURE UNOBTAINABLE

CHARLES E. HUTTON



JOHN SHARP SHAFER

PETER GRIEST

1873-74-75



ROBERT WEST 1876-77

PICTURE UNOBTAINABLE



JAMES SHADRACK BELL 1878-79-81-90



ALEXANDER HILL STITES 1882



JONAS BLOOM 1883



JOHN YOUNG 1884



LESLIE A. JORDAN 1885



JOHN DAVIS HASSETT 1886-87



WILLIAM HENRY BARNES 1888-89



MATTHIAS RAABE 1891-92



EDWARD JOSEPH HYMAN 1914



EDWIN D. THOMPSON 1915



OSCAR A. FRELLSON 1916-17



WM. ERNEST RATHKE 1918



GEORGE T. HANSEN 1919



ORRIN WILLIS ENGELKE 1920



JOHN W. HILLHOUSE 1921



WALTER B. FRELLSON 1922



LLOYD E. SMEAD 1923



1924



JOHN ALBERT REINERS ARTHUR A. WILLOUGHBY 1925



HAROLD F. PHILLIPS 1926



HENRY SONNIKSON 1927



EDWIN KENT JR. 1928



FRANK A. DOUGLAS 1929



WILLIAM A. McCUTCHAN 1930



CHESTER R. LEARD 1949



WALTER A. EAGAN 1950-51



ROBERT PLASBERG 1952



TRUMAN H. CLARK 1953



WILLIAM WALLACE 1954



HAROLD HUTCHINS



ARTHUR E. SCHIEFFER 1956

# 50 Year Members

Nathan H. Cox\*

John Matthews\*

Daniel N. Goddard\*

John Bidwell\*

Joseph A. McMinn\*

Edwin D. Thompson, P.M.

John H. Wilson\*, P.M.

Harvey C. Frost, P.M.

Matthias Raabe\*, P.M.

Mark A. Vanoni\*

Henry Sonnikson, P. M.\*

Harvey Dale\*

Joseph D. Cox

\* Deceased

## NOTES OF INTEREST



Seventy-four masters have served Sotoyome Lodge in the 100 years of its existence.

From an old minutes book, charred by fire and stained by water, we note the following: May 30, 1863, Our special committee to whom was referred the business of purchasing the hall now occupied by us, beg leave to make the following report. We have purchased the hall and lot of T. T. Heald, for the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars. Five Hundred Dollars of which was paid in cash at the time of purchase, the remaining four hundred dollars in a note made payable to T. T. Heald one day after date, bearing interest at the rate of two per cent per month. In order to make the first payment of five hundred dollars, your committee found it necessary to borrow money. Two hundred dollars of George Miller, and one hundred seventy dollars of Bro. J. G. McManus, eighty dollars of Lodge funds from the hands of the treasurer making in all the sum of five hundred dollars. Your committee as trustees of the lodge gave their notes to T. T. Heald, and Bros. George Miller and J. G. McManus for the sums above mentioned, all of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed: A. B. Aull )

Joseph Albertson ) Committee

"At the regular meeting of December 19, 1863, the committee appointed for the purpose of securing estimates of cost of plastering the ceiling of the lower floor, submitted their report. It disclosed the lowest bid received was \$60.00. On motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that the committee be authorized to borrow money to defray this expense of making the improvement suggested at our last meeting. This being the last regular meeting previous to the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist was therefore the time for the election of officers for the ensuing year."

In 1852 the first trading post or store was started by Harmon G. Heald in company with his brother George, the youngest brother of the family, who, together with the mother (now deceased), a sister (Mrs. Shaw), and a brother, I. G. Heald, both at present residing near Cloverdale, had crossed the plains in the summer of 1851. George Heald died early in the year 1853, being the first death and funeral at what is now the flourishing city of Healdsburg. He was interred by the side of the bunch of madrones in what is now the school lot, then apparently away back in the woods, now the heart of the city. His remains, with many others, were afterwards removed to Oak Mound Cemetery, which has since become quite a "City of the Dead".

Healdsburg would have grown to a town of first importance, but due to the unsettled conditions of land titles its progress was retarded. A large number of persons came into the valley and settled upon these lands just as they would have done on public land. The efforts made to dispossess them led to the so-called squatter war, of

Master, a silver trowel was presented to him by the High School. Sotoyome Lodge presented the High School with a flag on June 6, 1918.

On December 31, 1918, at one o'clock a.m., the Masonic Temple was destroyed by fire. The blaze started in the heating plant on the 2nd floor of the temple. The fire was discovered by nightwatchman Clyde McCord. The alarm rang for nearly an hour. The flames swept through the Lodge Room, two doctors offices, furniture store, and undertaking parlor. Damage was heavy. Sotoyome Lodge lost records, ornaments, lights, jewels, and furniture in this conflagration. W. M. William Ernest Rathke said "We will with the help of the brethren rebuild the temple better than before". Meetings were held in the I.O.O.F. building, during the reconstruction of the temple.

In 1919, the largest number of candidates to be raised in Sotoyome Lodge was twenty-five when Brother George T. Hansen was Master and 76 meetings were held. The least number of candidates was one—occurring in the years 1887, 1894, 1930, 1931, 1933.

February 6, 1919, it was moved, seconded, and carried, that Sotoyome Lodge, lease the entire upper floor of the Masonic Temple for lodge use at a rental of seventy-five dollars per month.

July 3, 1919, a resolution was introduced and adopted, amending the by-laws changing the meetings to the first Wednesday of each month—also the fee for degrees from \$50.00 to \$75.00.

On March 7, 1923, Brother C. W. Weaver, presented to the members of Sotoyome Lodge, the proposition of Mr. Eli Bush, and Alice Bush, for the purchase by Sotoyome Lodge of the property known as the Masonic Temple. The proposition was given to a committee which was appointed by the Master, for a survey and study of the factors involved. On April 4, 1923, this committee rendered their report to the lodge, with the recommendation that the proposition be accepted.

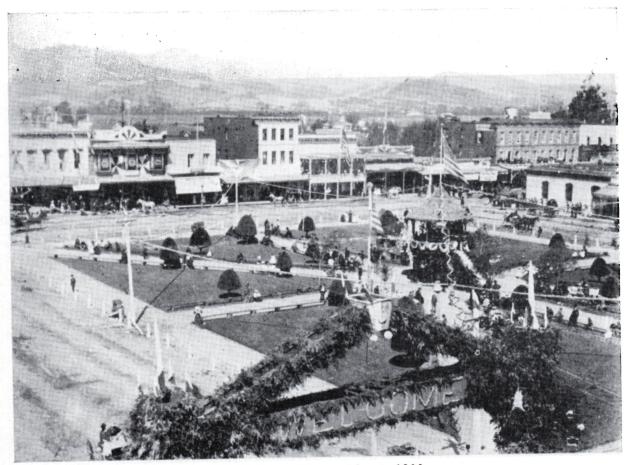
On April 6, 1923, an escrow agreement between Eli and Alice Bush, and the Trustees of Sotoyome Lodge was entered into, whereby Eli and Alice Bush deeded the property to Sotoyome Lodge, pursuant to the following conditions contained therein:

That Sotoyome Lodge would pay all taxes, insurance, and general up-keep of the building. Also the sum of \$225.00 per month as long as they were alive. Payments of this amount were made to them from May, 1923, until August, 1932, on the first of each month. Due to conditions and circumstances that existed at that time, and recognized by Mrs. Bush who out of kindness to the Lodge, reduced the payments to \$150.00 per month. This sum was paid to her from August, 1932, to January 1, 1937, on which date the payments were raised to \$175.00 per month. Payments of this amount were paid to her from January 1, 1937, to January 1, 1943, when she again favored us with a reduction to \$150.00 per month, which said amount was paid to her until July 1, 1951, the approximate date of her death. Value of property at which time was estimated at \$60,000.

May 26, 1930, Sotoyome Lodge convened for the purpose of receiving the most Worshipful Grand Master Charles M. Wollenberg. Members from Santa Rosa, Guerneville, Windsor, and Cloverdale were present. After a short program Grand Master Wollenberg was introduced by Past Master Edwin Kent. The Grand Master gave a very



Healdsburg, West Street, 1873



Healdsburg Plaza About 1900

### Healdsburg Masonic Club

During the winter of 1951-52 a group of brethren desiring to promote Masonic activities in Healdsburg and vicinity organized the Healdsburg Masonic Club. The purposes of organizing were twofold: 1) To promote and strengthen the activities of the Healdsburg Chapter Order of DeMolay and Healdsburg Assembly, Order of Rainbow, 2) To promote social and fraternal intercourse among the members of Sotoyome Lodge and the sojourning brethren of the community.

Dinners are planned for ten of the stated meeting nights each year. A speaker or program of interest is presented each month. These dinner meetings are always well attended and have succeeded in giving our sojourning brothers a place to actively participate in Masonic affairs.

Attendance at the stated meetings of Sotoyome Lodge has increased greatly during the life of the club.

One of the outstanding events each year is the Masonic Picnic organized by the club. This is truly a Masonic family event and has been successful beyond all expectations.

### Healdsburg Masonic Building Association

Prompted by a desire to improve the physical facilities of Sotoyome Lodge Truman Clark, during his term as master, explored every channel in an effort to find a feasable solution to the problem. During the winter of 1953-54 the foundation and organization for a building association was laid. Brother Robert Weston, P.M., has served as president since the date of organization. Under his leadership and that of several directors, a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation and refurbishing of the temple was undertaken. The generous support of the brethren, through the purchase of memberships in the association, made this project an outstanding success.

The management of the property will continue to be a function of the Building Association.

#### 1876

William Porter Warren Jesse Hutchins Vaughan David Thatcher Stephen Perdy Mead John R. Paul Nester Alcinous Young Herman M. Hasbrook Arthur Thina Silas William Gibson Thomas Wade Hudson Henry Charles Wall Martin Van Buren Hooten Henry Goldstein Francis Zacharia Cunningham Isaac Lona

#### 1877

Truman Dudley Oliver Albert Wright William Anawin James Francis Nichols John Richmond Truitt John Davidson Thompson

#### 1878

James Lawrance Killian Samuel David Fitch Lieuallen Jones Hall Frank Chaple St. Clair John Westley Burriss William Perry Miller Jesse Kina G. Rosasco

#### 1879

John Morrow Thompson Louis Joseph James Somes Samuel Cohn David Taylor Seely Nathan Hinckley Wood Francis Warren Palmer Azriah Patrick Keran Thomas Jefferson Riley Aylmer Denison Keith George Henry Kennedy

#### 1880

James Madison Hill John Davis Hassett Don Alvaro Skillinger William Henry Hall Clarence Conway Hall Marcus L. Thompson Abner Randolph Doughty Leopold Carl Kugler

#### 1881

**Edward Caulkins** 

George Clarinden Whitehead Orrick Sterling Allen John Frankling Tombs John Bidwell John Wesley Matthews Henry Rolf Brown Henry Fox Charles Wesley Matthews Jr. Daniel Nevada Goddard Solomon Walters George Washington Long James William Terry Nathan Henry Cox Lewis Morgan Howell Rhodum Louis Biabie William Henry Barnes Henry Christian Ottmer

#### 1882

William Chaplain Pridham Charles Francis Raymond John Henry Stone William Charles Marsh Albert G. Burnett Thomas Buckle George Paton Wilcox James William Seawell James Louis Rickman Matthew Hayes

#### 1883

Andrew Johnson Edward Granville Hall Robert Robertson Givins Michael Redding James Riley Swisher Arthur Emmet Cochran Noble Blackington Francis Marion Sponogle William Henry Joy

#### 1884

Nelson Bradley Coffman Barnie Gobbi William Rufus Cochran George Saum Alexander Lafayette Warner Will Huntley Frank A. Hutchinson Thomas Jefferson Gibson Leander Griffith Ellis G. Baptist Trapet

#### 1885

Elias Burgess Metzger Theodore Hovey Henry Calvin Petray Andrew Decatur Drummond

#### 1887

Ernest Edward Roemer

#### 1888

William Walter Moreland Henry Fried

#### 1889

Porter Ralston Clare E. P. Cake

#### 1890

Edward Sinton Gray Edward Molloy Norton George H. Warfield James Thomas McNamara

#### 1891

John Shaw Young C. L. Kimball

#### 1892

Nathan Shriver George Russel Harrison John Leavitt Bates

#### 1893

William Everett Nye William Van Allen David Henry Mothorn

#### 1894

Maitland Grant Hall

#### 1895

Lafayette William Doane Robert Percy Legh Matthew Fitzgerald Louis Meyer Domenico Lorenzini Samuel Meyer George Henry Butterfield Joseph Mayo William Benjamin Whitney 1896

#### Jonathan Hardy John C. Ingalls

George William Miller Lewis Arnold Reniff Broder Frellson

#### 1897

Thomas R. Glass John Henry Gunn Henry Marshall Henry Nisson Sonnikson James Patrick Jacob Silberstein Charles Wickham A. R. H. Thumann Glenn Allen Wallace Melville Milton Rosenberg Albert Henry Crabtree

#### 1914

David A. Penry Ray Grover Jacobs Orren Lorenzo Linscott George Charles Mason George Perry Ferguson Thomas Peat Brown William Burgett Charles Christensen John Mark Hoover Edwin Alvin Petray Joseph Clarkson Thompson Silas Westley McMichael **Duvall Drake Phillips** Eslie Burt Deakin John William Hillhouse James Van Lever Mason Wilfred H. McMinn Walter Storey

#### 1915

Fred William Gladden'
Ben Ely Grant
Charles Coffman
Howard Luther Heitz
Ensley Miles Bent
William Alfred McCutchan
Gus Hildebrand Jr.

#### 1916

James Edward Knauss
Benjamin Norton
Attilio Gino Travertini
Edgar Wing Briggs
Ira Albert Bidwell
Ulysses Grant Sargent
Clarence Edgar Curtis
Frank Ernest Sohler
John Henry Osborn
Paul Fred Hildebrandt
Elmer Comstock Raymond
John Starr Riddle

#### 1917

Hans Peter Schmidt Robert Brown George Riley Brown Hiram Porter Warren Teo Le Conte Rosenberg William Francis Frame David Atkinson Bane

#### 1918

Walter Broder Frellson Jacob Ehrlich Watson Lee Johns Lloyd Everett Smead John Harold Austin Arthur Burtlett Campbell Ralph Putnum Binkley Walter Lee Williams George Louis Hammeken Cornelius Marion Johnson Charles Wilfred Bourne

#### 1919

Chester Von Grafen John Christy Condit Albert Davies Goddard Carl Alexander Andersen Julius Giorgi Archer Wilford Hollingsworth Achille Giorgi Paolo Stefani Charles Sheriffs Edgar L. Morse Charles Warren Comstock George Shadrack Bell Charles Wagele Frederick James Kinley James A. Petray Barnard Malone Pearson Emil George Roehm Charles Aaron Flanery Elmer Marinus Hansen Charles Lawrence Frost Charles Raymond Murry **Ernest Davies Severs** Robert William Weston

#### 1920

Arthur Andrew Willoughby Robert William Bruce John Henry Haub Hiram William Smith Otto H. Briggs Keith Oscar Patteson Thomas Adolphus Jones Ralph Delano Grant Finnly Ward Frisch Ira J. Lambert Edward George Wood John Albert Reiners Bert Nichols George Raymond Brown Rufus Wright Russell Axel Kustaf Ilvander

#### 1921

Guy Rose Frederick Lee Peters George Edward Crockett Percy Jack Hills James Albert Goddard Harold Kirkham Miller Jackson Pierre Hildreth

#### 1922

Russell Brennan Stevens
John Andrew Lavell
Duvall Shadrack Bell
Lydon Ellsworth Mothorn
Shuler Francis Fagan
Leander August Kahrs
Arthur Henry Meese
Robert Ray Dennis
Albert Nelson York

#### 1923

Edward Bebee Strong Jr.
Harold Frederick Phillips
Frank Mather Schmidt
Fred John Brandt
Presley Perry Mothorn
Edwin Martin Barry
Fred Young
Alvin Donald Petray
Arthur Diller Starbuck
Oscar Alfred Goetz
Edwin Kent Jr.

#### 1924

Lester Barton Tenney
Leopold Leon Pey
Lawrence Harry McCollum
Ralph Arthur Tanner
Arnold Jacques Tanner
Clement Earl Auradou
William John Massoni
Maurice Edwin Brady
Earle Frederick Roth
John William Mahood
Gale Raney Dewey

#### 1925

Claude Talbath McConnell Albert Felix Bucher Pasquale Massoni Frank Alexander Douglas John Ralph Williams Paul M. Travis

#### 1926

Charles William Benjamin Walter Benjamin Towle John Leonard Neely Jackson Temple Bailhache Stanley Richard Austin

#### 1927

George Melne Tevendale Lindley Dodge Gilbert George Francis McCutchan

#### 1952

Ira Hall Rosenberg Richard E. Varcoe Donald Lee Kirkpatrick Charles Myron Chipman

#### 1953

Leland Stanford Sayre Raymond R. Wainscott Frank M. Thrall Frank Wrede Thrall Jack Mounts Norman George Baker Donald Fenwick Osman Lloyd Louis Lindstrom Theodore Propes Elmer B. Christensen C. Orville Bell Martin Eberhart Leafgreen Dale Bennie Wetzler James Edgar Trammel Bert Goodman Thomas H. Beahm Ernest Emil Nisson Percy Howard Bayly Arthur M. Kruckman Marvin D. Meader Charles Leonard East

Elmer William Carter

#### 1954

Leonard Russell Boyd
Glen P. Williams
Carl C. Christensen
John S. Segesman
Parmelee Gaylord Cox
Basil Albert Hire
William Edward Garrison
Fred L. Mason
Herbert Franklin Turner
Paul Earnest Gabriel

#### 1955

Gannett Thorn Rogers
Harry E. Behney
Donovan Carl Oakleaf
Charles Norman Bacigalupi
Walter John Welton
Philip Allen Henry
Eugene Donald Simoni
Eldward L. Brigham
Lloyd Edward Smead Jr.
Rudolph Andrew Marquard

#### 1956

Lloyd Alva Johnson

Don Harper
Charles Harry Carlson
William Robert Wendt
Ralph Henry Brigham
Cecil William Lotspeich
Charles Neri Del Fava
Phillip Bebber
Robert Lotspeich

#### 1957

Clifford Henry Thompson Donavon Eustace Mohn Roger Owen Rose Thomas Senn Frakes Relzy Aiken Douglas Vinson Badger James Herbert Book Robert Charles Jensen Gilbert Dolan Pettit Wayne Ilmari Kuivala Louis Jack Propes William Edward Murhamer John Elbert Carriaer Richard Wilfred Gibbard Walter Warren Davis Thomas G. Swift

### Committees for 1957

#### GENERAL PURPOSE

Orrin W. Engelke, P.M. Chester R. Leard, P.M. John A. Condit, P.M. Walter A. Eagan, P.M.

Lloyd E. Smead, P.M. Emmett Sonnikson, P.M. Perry Austin, P.M. Robert H. Meyer

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

George A. Smith Elmer B. Christensen Byron C. Gibbs Philip A. Henry

Walter A. Eagan, P.M.

#### AUDITING

Lloyd E. Smead, P.M. Orrin W. Engelke, P.M.

Harold F. Phillips, P.M.

#### REFRESHMENTS

Clem E. Auradou Walter R. Marshall Joe E. Howard Elmer Carter

Floyd Beffa
James E. Clarke
Carrol M. Wallace
K. O. Patteson

#### VISITING

Albert D. Agostini

Arthur E. Schieffer, P.M.

Robert W. Weston, P.M.

#### MEMORIAL TEMPLE

Truman H. Clark, P.M. James E. Clarke

Orrin W. Engelke, P.M. Leonard R. Boyd

Leonard R. B

#### RITUAL

Albert D. Agostini George A. Smith Edward L. Brigham

William Smith Charles Bacigalupi Walter J. Welton

#### ENTERTAINMENT

Elmer Sandborn William Wendt F. Wrede Thrall George A. Smith
William Wallace, P.M.
Cecil Lotspeich

#### HEALDSBURG MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

Robert W. Weston, P.M. Walter Eagan, P.M. Arthur E. Schieffer, P.M.

William C. Wallace, P.M. Harold H. Hutchins, P.M. James E. Clarke

#### MASONIC CLUB

#### SOTOYOME CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Albert D. Agostini, General Chairman Arthur E. Schieffer, P.M. Elmer B. Christensen K. O. Patteson Harold F. Phillips, P.M. Edwin D. Thompson, P.M. Robert W. Weston, P.M. Walter A. Eagan, P.M. Philip A. Henry

Orrin W. Engelke, P.M.

OFFICER'S COACH Arthur E. Schieffer INSPECTOR 307th DISTRICT Carrol C. Doane, P.M. October 8, 1859 - First meeting held under dispensation. Organized by the officers named in the Dispensation, Wm. H. Hollis, Worshipful Master; Eli Lester, Senior Warden, and T. J. Gould, Junior Warden. Present were Brothers Samuel Larison, James Ramey, J. W. Belden and Thomas Johnson. The Master appointed the following - J. B. Estess, Treasurer; Thomas Johnson, Secretary; James Ramey, Senior Deacon; N. L. Morey, Junior Deacon, and Samuel Larison, Tiler.

December 3, 1859 - Warrant drawn for eight candlesticks, \$1.00; for visiting committee from Sotoyome Lodge, \$11.00.

January 7, 1860 - "Committee appointed to examine coal oil lamps with power to purchase if found suitable for the use of the hall."

February 4, 1860 - "Committee on lamps reported progress and asked for further time. Granted."

March 3, 1860 - "In consequence of the rainstorm and the overflowing of Russian River the brethren were unable to assemble."

March 31, 1860 - "Your committee appointed to examine the coal oil lamps report that they have carefully examined the same, and disapproved them for the use of the Hall."

April 28, 1860 - "By an unanimous vote of the Lodge it was determined to apply to the Grand Lodge of California at its next annual Communication for a Charter to perpetuate Curtis Lodge. An informal election was had for officers to be named in the Charter when the following names were unanimously voted for, to-wit: William H. Hollis, Worshipful Master; Eli Lester, Senior Warden; T. J. Gould, Junior Warden. It was voted by the Lodge that Brother Wm. H. Hollis represent Curtis Lodge at the next Grand Lodge of California to be holden in the City of Sacramento on the second Tuesday in May next, to return to that Lodge the Dispensation under which we have been working, the funds due for the Grand Lodge, and the Records of Work, with an attested copy of the By-Laws and a petition for a Charter to perpetuate this Lodge."

April 28, 1860 - Warrant drawn to Daniel Sink for \$8.00 for eight office chairs.

April 28, 1860 - D. C. Brush affiliated, coming from Indiana. He was the first Mason to affiliate with this Lodge. His son, Wm. T. Brush, was made a Master Mason on April 29, 1865.

June 2, 1860 - "The Worshipful Master, W. H. Hollis, having returned from attending the Grand Lodge at Sacramento City presented to this Lodge the Charter or Warrant he had obtained from the Grand Lodge for the perpetuation of Curtis Lodge, held at Cloverdale, Sonoma County, and numbered one hundred and forty (140) with the names of W. H. Hollis as Worshipful Master; Eli Lester as Senior Warden; T. J. Gould as Junior Warden; as Chartered Officers for Curtis Lodge, and bearing date May 10<sup>th</sup> A. L. 5860, A. D. 1860." The Lodge then elected Michal Levy as Treasurer and Thos. Johnson as Secretary, and the Worshipful Master made the following appointments: Samuel Larison, Senior Deacon; J. B. Estess, Junior Deacon; N. L. Morey, W. H. Sansbury, Stewards; D. C. Brush, Tiler.

April 8, 1865 - The bill of Prince and Goldfish for lamps and oil, \$11.25, was allowed.

September 2, 1876 - A communication from the Grand Secretary was received claiming \$2.75 for discount on silver coin paid for Grand Lodge dues; ordered paid.

September 30, 1876 - A letter from the Grand Secretary was read stating reasons for exacting the Grand Lodge dues in gold.

May 19, 1877 - A cow was purchased for a Mason's widow for \$40 by voluntary subscription of the members.

August 17, 1877 - Reuben Henry Sink was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. He is now a resident of Stockton and Pastor Emeritus of the First Congregational church. A letter of reminiscences from him is included in this booklet. He is the oldest living Past Master of Curtis Lodge.

December 29, 1877 - Wellington Appleton (son of Madam Preston) was made a Master Mason, having received the first degree December 17<sup>th</sup> and second degree December 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the record in this Lodge, so far as is known, having received all three degrees in twelve days.

April 8, 1882 - Simon Pinschower made a Master Mason. Oldest living member in 1935.

May 11,1889 - Geo. Baker Baer made a Master Mason. Worshipful Master 1893-4-5.

October 26, 1895 - the pillars now used were purchased.

June 27, 1896 - Under C. E. Humbert, Worshipful Master, a visit was had from Esperanza Lodge of San Francisco and Arcturas Lodge of Petaluma. Esperanza Lodge conferred the third degree upon Joseph Perazzo in the Italian tongue. Arcturas Lodge conferred the third degree upon Thos. B. Wilson. After lodge the "brethren repaired to Union Hall and partook of a bountiful banquet which was contributed to most liberally by members of Curtis Lodge belonging to the Italian Swiss Colony." Masons were present from many lodges to the number of 140.

November 2, 1901 - C. L. Sedgley, the present Treasurer, was made a Master Mason. He has the distinction of having been continuously in office for thirty-four years beginning with the year 1902 and continuing to date. Three years Master, two years Senior Warden, one year Junior Warden, seventeen years Treasurer, seven years Senior Deacon, one year Junior Steward, one year Chaplain.

March 26, 1904 - Piano was purchased, \$289.40. Sold half interest to Odd Fellows February 1, 1909.

November 16, 1907 - Meeting night changed from the Saturday before the full moon to the first Monday of each month.

August 5, 1909 - The Lodge was convened to conduct the funeral of Francis Marion Lamb, who affiliated with this Lodge March 7, 1868. The following letter of instructions from Brother Lamb was carried out in every detail: "May 14, 1905. To the Worshipful Master of Curtis Lodge No. 140, F. & A. M.: Should I die while in the jurisdiction of your Lodge, and being a member in good standing, it is my wish and request, that you will have my body moved to the town of Cloverdale (as soon as I am dead) and have

### 1935 Membership Of Curtis Lodge

Baer, Geo. Baker Blaisdell, Harry Lee Bucher, Albert Felix Burger, Hale Emerick Caldwell, John Wilcox Caldwell, William Beatty Campbell, Alexander Wm. Cavalli, George (Sr.) Cavalli, George (Jr.) E. A. Cerri, Richard Chase, William Paul Dillingham, Brian Moran Field, William Dudley Franceschini, Michael D. Gardner, Charles Millard Gibson, Richard Nathan Grant, Horace Gustavus Green, Robert Franklin Haehl, Edward Oliver Hanks, Charles Wm. Haverly, Herbert Chas. Hensley, Joseph Clinten Hobbs, Charles Crowley

Hover, Arthur Wm. Humbert, Charles Emile Imrie, George Nicoll Johnson, Lloyd C. Kjeldsen, Vernon Edward Kleiser, George Wm. Kleiser, James Henry Kleiser, Joseph Albert Kucich, George Lacey, William Curtis Lombard, Louis Arena Lyons, Arthur A. McClary, David Reid McClelland, Robert Maclay McGahan, Nelson Berton McMullin, Edward Angelus McPherson, Ernest Edward Marinkovich, Antone Martens, Carl Herman Albert Matthews, Kenneth Moore, Harley Laverne Murray, Thomas Elmer Oakleaf, Donovan Carl

Pearce, Merlyn Rutherford Pettis, Ovid Eduard Pinschower, Simon Rathbone, Leland Dee Rickard, Wesley Phelps Rouse, William Howard Rulofson, Wavne Snowden Sanford, Samuel Elliott Sedgley, Charles Loring Sedgley, Jotham Palmer Sedgley, Walter Frank Shipley, William Chapman Shipley, William Henry Smith, Lawrence Ronald Smith, Lynn Dailey Stice, Norman Welford Swenson, Philip Victor Thompson, Harold Eastman Tod, Roy Stewart Topjian, Levon Stephen Whitaker, Wallace J. Wiedersheim, Charles F. H. Weidersheim, Henry Wm.

### 2007 EDITOR'S NOTE:

Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate historical records of Curtis Lodge No. 140 since the account by Past Master Charles Loring Sedgley. Curtis Lodge did petition Sotoyome Lodge No. 123 to consider the merger of the two Lodges in 1988. The two lodges did consolidate in 1989 under the name of Sotoyome Curtis Lodge No. 123.

We have included the list of those brothers who have served as Worshipful Masters of Curtis Lodge from their beginning to the year of consolidation. Curtis Lodge did not have photographs of their Past Masters. Those members who combined with us are included in the list of Honors and Awards.

MEETS FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT OF EACH MONTH

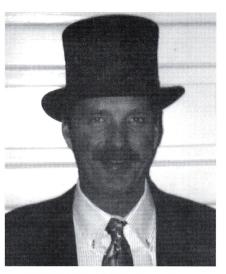
## Sotoyome Curtis Lodge



NO. 123, F. & A. M.

MASONIC TEMPLE

HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA



THEODORE ELLIOT, *Master* SOTOYOME CURTIS LODGE NO. 123

It is an absolute honor and a privilege to serve as Master for the one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Sotoyome-Curtis Lodge #123 F. and A.M. The founding members and those that followed blessed us and our community with a tradition of service.

In addition to the fraternal support we offer to one another, there is the support for the community, in the form of college scholarships, public schools programs, child identification, city beautification, food bank and law enforcement. We are ready to help where needed in the communities we serve.

The Grand Lodge of California granted our charter members the dispensation to organize the lodge on December 19, 1857. We are the oldest fraternal and service organization in Healdsburg since the city was incorporated that same year. We look forward to continuing the traditions that we have been bequeathed.

Theodore Elliott Worshipful Master

# Past Masters of Sotoyome Lodge



MAJOR S. PHILLIPS



GEORGE A SMITH 1958



RAYMOND R. WAINSCOTT 1960



WALTER J. MELTON



RALPH H. BRIGHAM 1962



WREDE THRALL

1959

HERBERT F. TURNER



ROBERT C. JENSEN



DOUG V. BADGER 1965



GILBERT D. PETTIT



NORMAN W. PETERSEN



ARTHUR W. ROBERTSON



GUERDON G. MILLER 1969



GEORGE W. VANNUCCI 1970



JOSEPH L. CONGER 1971



WILLIAM E. CALDWELL



EMIL A. MENGHINI 1990



RONNY L. WALLACE



JAMES D. EDWARDS 1993



KENNETH M. ROSE 1994

NO PICTURE AVAILABLE

ROBERT CARTER



ROBERT D. PALMER 1996 - 1997



RAYMOND M. CATHEY 1998



WALTER A. EAGAN 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002



LOREN R. GRIFFITH 2003 - 2004

NO PICTURE AVAILABLE





THEODORE F. ELLIOT 2006-2007

member of our lodge and a member from 1857 to 1869. We had no record of membership in our lodge of Moses Carson.

September 27, 1967 An oil painting of Robert R. (Pat) Dennes was unveiled and presented to the lodge in honor of his serving the lodge for forty-one years as treasurer. He was first installed in 1926.

February 5, 1969 Elmer Sandborn donated a gavel made of marble from King Solomon's Quarry and an apron from Solomon's Crown Temple, Mt. Zeon Lodge No. 2 in Jerusalem, Israel. The apron has both American and Jewish inscriptions under the flap.

Jun 4, 1969 George Vanucci, Senior Warden told of the lodge fire on December 31, 1918. He further went on to read a certificate from Grand Lodge dated July 2, 1919, which was six months after the fire showing where Sotoyome Lodge had donated \$502.50 to the Masonic Homes. The membership the following year was 200. He then reported that Sotoyome Lodge now had a membership of 240.

July 1, 1970 The lodge voted to purchase a robe as a gift to Mrs. Annie Matthews on her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 18. She was one of the Masonic widows sponsored by our lodge in the Masonic Home in Decoto. A delegation was formed to visit her and deliver the gift.

May 14, 1975 Sotoyome Lodge and the Grand Master of California with other Grand Officers helped the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication of the New Healdsburg Junior High School.

October 3, 1979 The Building Association reported on the recommendation from the fire marshall. Several items have been addressed and bids are being received for the installation of fire alarms and a sprinkler system.

February 4, 1981 New officer aprons were purchased with funds from the Elmer Sandborn Masonic fund which Brother Sandborn established for use within the "four walls of the room."

March 1981 A new Masonic Education Committee was formed. The purpose of the committee is to "enlighten new members to the many steps and the education that each step provides."

October 7, 1981 The lodge was informed by the city that in order to use city facilities for such events as out annual picnic, we must file a certificate of insurance. If we don't file, we can insure our event through the city for fifty dollars per event. Brandt Insurance Company will provide the insurance.

February 3, 1982 The lodge honored Brother Robert Jensen with the title of "A Human Blood Factory." Over a period of time, Brother Jensen has donated more than ten gallons of blood to our lodge blood bank. The blood bank has been valuable to our members and their families.

February 26, 1982 Doc Inman was given the Hiram Award. "Doc has served as candidate coach for many years and in the process established strong friendships and fraternal ties, His long record of service to his lodge and his loyalty, devotion, and continuing services has pointed him out as the object of this award."

Master gave a talk about Vern being selected. Ralph Wallen will receive his Hiram Award at dinner on October 24, 1992. The Master presented Walt Davis and Bill Caldwell with their 25 year pins.

March 3, 1993 The officer elected to serve as Senior Warden has requested to be released from office because he does not have time to become proficient. The lodge asked him to stay on as a candidate for the office and will request and extension of time from Grand Lodge for the Lodge to elect a replacement.

April 9, 1993 A dinner was held in honor of Walter A. Eagan receiving the Hiram Award. During the subsequent meeting the lodge voted to donate funds to sponsor Grand Lodge having a float in the Rose Parade in Pasadina on New Years Day. It was also decided to continue the Drug Prevention Pencil Box Program.

June 2, 1993 William E. Caldwell was installed as Junior Warden to serve for the remaining months of the term. Brother Dick Carter asked that the Lodge add pictures of the Past Masters of Curtis Lodge No. 140 to our gallery. He will try to gather suitable photographs and Brother McGowan volunteered to frame the pictures.

September 1996 Since the Lodge was unable to locate pictures of the Cloverdale lodge Past Masters a redwood burl plaque will be made with the names of all Curtis Lodge No. 140 engraved on it. It will be displayed on the wall in the hallway.

June 7, 2000 It was announced that our lodge was awarded first place for adult floats in the FFA Country Fair Parade.

September 6, 2000 The stained glass window in the East had been damaged. Insurance rider is necessary before repairs are made. Brother Chandler will receive the Hiram Award.

November 11, 2000 The lodge voted to sponsor the Grand Lodge Child Identification Program. A computer print out of a picture, thumb prints and other information will be made and given to parents who request. No one else will receive the information

July 11, 2001 Following a letter of request from Police Chief Rick Alvers and a presentation at dinner by a department representative, the lodge donated \$2,500 to equip a mobile command post. The lodge also received a first place award for our horse drawn float in the Country Fair parade. Robert Jensen will be awarded Mason of the Year next month.

June 5, 2002 Scholarships were awarded to six students as follows: Healdsburg, 3; Cloverdale, 2; Geyserville, 1. The Child Identification booth at the FFA Fair gave parents of 331 children the print-outs. Many thanks to Horst Winkel for his assistance and thanks to all who participated.

June 11, 2003 The Lodge hosted a catered luncheon for twenty-two officers of the Grand Lodge of California and our members and guests.

September 3, 2003 The lodge will celebrate Constitution Observance Month by distributing booklets on the United States Constitution to all fifth grade students in the local schools. Ted Elliott, Bill Caldwell, and Aaron Griffith will distribute them.

Subsequently, we received a letter from Grand Lodge stating that we would have to become inactive and have our charter surrendered. We were given a list of requirements we had to meet before we could resume our regular meetings. Our District Inspector, Walter A. Kelley, will help us meet those requirements.

June 7, 2006 The Lodge met with Inspector Al Kelley serving as Worshipful Master. Inspector Kelley opened the meeting by reading a letter from Grand Lodge and signed by the Grand Master giving permission for resumption of limited activities for our Lodge. The minutes of February 7 were approved. A motion was passed to form a Five Year Plan committee with Ted Elliott as chairman as required by Grand Lodge.

July 5, 2006 The meeting was called to order by Inspector Kelley. Brother Ken Rose, P.M. a committee member of the Five Year Plan Committee has prepared the initial draft of our plan. The Inspector noted the plan should be mailed to all members thirty days prior to the September 30, 2006, meeting when it will be voted upon by the general membership. Discussion should be held at the August meeting. The Lodge also voted to send ten members to the Grand Lodge Certification Program. The Inspector set dates for the officers to demonstrate proficiency in the degrees as follows: First Degree: July 12; Second Degree: July 26; Third Degree: August 9. The elected and appointed officers for 2006 are: Master, Ted Elliott; Senior Warden, Walter A. Eagan; Junior Warden, Robert C. Palmer; Robert Mahon, Treasurer; William Stiles, Secretary; William E. Caldwell, Chaplain; Aaron Griffith, Senior Deacon; Jerry Beth, Junior Deacon; Milton Rose, Senior Steward; Robert W. Lewis, Junior Steward; William Atkinson, Marshal; Bud Rose, Tyler.

September 6, 2006 Our guest for the evening was Robert D. Rowan Assistant Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of California, who represented our Inspector for our progress. Our Five Year Plan was voted upon and passed. The Assistant Grand Lecturer complemented us regarding the plan and stated no changes were needed.

October 4, 2006 Worshipful Master Ted Elliott announced that our Lodge has been approved by Grand Lodge ans we will be reinstated as of October 4, 2006. We have two new applications for degrees. First Degree practice will be November 11, 2006.

April 9, 2007 The Lodge conferred two Third Degrees to Jesse T. Garrison and Todd M. Beth.

May 2, 20067 A dinner was held in honor of Bud Rose for the presentation of a 50 year pen by our Inspector Wes Daniels. This was the official visit of our Inspector. He presented us with our charter and other items held by Grand Lodge. A beautiful oil painting of the Three Great Lights of Masonry was presented to the Lodge by Brother Bill Atkinson. The City of Healdsburg has requested to have the Arts Council paint a mural on the south side of our building to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the chartering of the City of Healdsburg as well as Sotoyome Curtis Lodge No. 123. We voted to do this and have an open house during the celebration weekend in August. The Lodge also voted to have the official Lodge celebration and Installation of Officers on February 1, 2008 in order to have the Most Worshipful Master attend.

### Roster of Membership

Date denotes year members joined

#### 1958

Roy Edwin Smith
Beryl David Penry
Leonard Carlson
Everette James Rodden
Wesley Davis Becraft
Guerdon Gerald Miller
Ira Rollo Anthony
Milton Duane Rose
Robert Maurice Brady
Lewis Ward Taylor
Ralph Emerson Chaney

#### 1959

Willard B. Akers, Jr. Alvin R. Cadd Arthur William Atkinson Howan Hartley Pullin Lester Harvey Flournoy

#### 1960

Allan Durbin Robinson
Everett Inman
Melvin H. Wood
Robert Le Roy Noyer
Richard James Sharpe
Vrain C. Conley
Alex Spence Russell
Albert Edward Borgwardt

#### 1961

Andrew Ruthurford Delbert Joseph Grant Walter Welling Goodman

#### 1962

Louis Fred Seims Norman Wayne Peterson George Boris Lebedeff Boris Paul Lebedeff Leo J. Ramer

#### 1963

Randall M. Bennett Arthur Wendell Robertson Frank Allen Price William Dennis Bertsche

#### 1964

Earl Roy Burrell
Henry Francis Luehring
Jay Dale Sullivan
Lloyd Ezekiel Coleman
George Washington Vannucci
Wayne R. Calvert
Joseph Lee Conger

#### 1965

Leandro Moretto
Louis Julius Costa
Jimmie Alford Walker
Gerald Dee Skipper
Harry John Hodgers
Fred Dale Hatchell
Herbert Lawson
James L. Durnford
Michael Ray Rose
Richard LeRoy Rose
James Thomas Roberts
Donald James Gabehart
Hugh Herbert Siebenthall
Lester Stewart Cranston

#### 1966

Paul Rolf Wittke Richard Campbell Cook

#### 1967

Ralf Monroe Wood Thomas Apperly Follows William Elwood Caldwell Edward Sewart McIntyre John Richard Byrd, Jr. Orville Palmer Walter William Laursen Alexandro DeMasi Hugh Samuel Smith Clarence Dan Skrable

#### 1968

Mason Otto Feudner Ernest Vincent DellaCroce Ross Paul Higgins William Dale Ballard Gary Dale Ballard

#### 1969

Ernest Duane Aaron William Arthur Casteel Benjamin Bradford Byrd Lloyd Lester Decker William Dean Nick Esposti, Jr. James Edgar Hall

#### 1970

Gerald Harry Oesterling Benjamin Friedman James Edward Latson

#### 1971

Robert Herman Buffham Gene La Fever Thompson Daniel Polk Newell George Ralph Wallen David Lewis Rose Robert Eugene Merrick James Ross Chamberlain Richard Thomas Reis Donald E. Prather

#### 1972

Thorwald Hilmer Gustafson William Edward Stiles

| 1992                 | 1998                 | 2003                 |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Constantine Nicholes | Jerry W. Beth Jr.    | Donald H. Mauser     |
| Robert Doyer         |                      | Robert W. Lewis      |
|                      | 1999                 | Robert W. Lewis      |
| 1993                 | Dale Whitlock        |                      |
| Wallace H. Balz      | Loren Griffith       | 2004                 |
| Arthur L. Olsen      | Michael Timofeev     | James Luke           |
| Michael D. McEvoy    | 2000                 | Charles Lee Forest   |
| 1995                 | Michael Hayes        | Paul Ingram          |
| Dale L. Lynch        | Whenaer I layes      | r aur mgram          |
| Date D. Lyften       | 2001                 | 2005                 |
| 1996                 | Theodor F. Elliott   | 2005                 |
| Fred Midson          |                      | William Robert Lewis |
| Charles L. Doire     | 2002                 |                      |
| Raymond M. Cathey    | Richard Chapman      | 2006                 |
|                      | Robert Lee Mahon     |                      |
| 1997                 | Aaron David Griffith | Jesse Garrison       |
| Joseph Galik         | Ian Nathanial Scott  | Todd Beth            |

# Sotoyome-Curtis Lodge Officers 2007

| Ted Elliott          | Worshipful Master | 707-857-4757      |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Walter Eagan, PM     | Senior Warden     | 707-838-6520      |
| Robert Palmer, PM    | Junior Warden     | 707-495-2034 cell |
| Bill Stiles          | Secretary         | 707-433-3733      |
| Robert Mahon         | Treasurer         | 707-431-0384      |
| Aaron Griffith       | Senior Deacon     | 707-525-8776      |
| Jerry Beth (Butch)   | Junior Deacon     | 707-433-8732      |
| Bill Atkinson        | Marshal           | 707-433-4156      |
| Robert Lewis         | Senior Steward    | 707-433-5659      |
| Milt Rose (Dent)     | Junior Steward    | 707-857-3555      |
| William Caldwell, PM | Chaplin           | 707-433-3888      |
| Roger Rose (Bud)     | Tyler             | 707-857-3586      |
| Wes Daniels, PM      | Inspector         | 707-576-1077      |
|                      |                   |                   |



# dedicated

To the memory of all those departed brethren who through the century of Sotoyome Lodge's existence contributed so much of themselves to the furtherance of the ideals of our great institution.