

Missouri Elks Association

Established October 12, 1909



Missouri Elks 1st Annual Reunion
June 17 -18, 1910
Mexico Lodge # 919

100th Anniversary Celebration

March 12-14, 2010
Truman Conference Center
Jefferson City, Missouri

Foreword

The year was 1909 there were 35 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodges chartered in the State of Missouri. The President Of the United States was William Howard Taft, the Model T had just been introduced and travel was mostly by railroad. As you glance through this list of things from 1909 you will see many things have changed since then.

- The average life expectancy was 47 years
- Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone
- There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower
- The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour
- The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at home
- Sugar cost four cents a pound
- Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day
- Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write
- Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, 'Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health'
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire country
- Plus one more sad thought; 95 percent of the taxes we have now did not exist in 1909

On October 12th while the Detroit Tigers were beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-0 in game 4 of what would be a seven game World Series won by Pittsburgh, Elks from around the State of Missouri were gathering in Mexico, MO to form the Missouri Elks Association. This book is a brief and far from concise look back at some of the Association events of the last one hundred years.

History of Elks in Missouri

The Elks of Missouri have had a glorious past, and look forward to the future. The Elks came to Missouri May 29, 1878 by establishing a lodge at St. Louis. Thus becoming the 9th lodge to be established in the order. This lodge has over the years added much to the Elks. It was instituted after dispensation granted by Chicago Lodge #4. The first Exalted Ruler of St. Louis #9 was Thomas E. Garrett. He went on to a much higher place within the order by becoming Exalted Grand Ruler (as they were then called) and served the order two consecutive terms 1880-1881 and 1881-1882. Brother Garrett was very instrumental in upgrading our ritual. The ritual, with two degrees and four weeks probationary period was in existence and used as originally presented until 1881, when it was amended by Past Exalted Grand Ruler Thomas E. Garrett by the addition of another officer named as the Esquire, who took over a large portion of the work of the fourth chair, then called Grand Lecturer, but whose title was at the same time changed to that of Esteemed Lecturing Knight. Both Grand Lodge sessions that Garrett presided over were held in New York City, membership grew from 1,060 to 1,806 brothers and for the first time contributions exceeded \$5,000.00 during his time in office. He also was responsible for new lodges at Indianapolis #13, Providence #14, Washington D.C. #15 and Denver #17. I am sure all will agree he acquitted himself quite admirably in his service to the order, its growth, and service to humanity.

On August 10, 1899 at Springfield, MO., an organization by the name of Inter-State and Territorial Association of Elks was formed. This was a fore runner of each individual State Association. It was formed because most of the members of the day didn't attend Grand Lodge Conventions. At that time states making up this new organization was Kansas with nineteen lodges, Missouri with ten, Arkansas with four lodges, Oklahoma Territory with four and Indian Territory with four. One of its main purposes was Ritual competition with the winner each year being awarded a silver loving cup. Also they felt by their greater number in forming this association they would have more voice at the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention which was held at Baltimore. The following letter was written by C.E. Pickett, Grand Exalted Ruler dated Waterloo, Iowa, April 29, 1902. "Your favor of the 26th, enclosing copy of rules adopted at the last meeting of the InterState and Territorial Association is at hand. I have examined the same and can find nothing in there but what seems to me perfectly proper. And it seems to me you have now struck the key note for State Organizations. I expect to meet with the committee on laws in a few

days and will present these rules as a specimen of what I consider should be used in other states. I am glad to know that everything looks so prosperous in your state”.

We are not sure how long this organization lasted but feel that it served a need at that time. The first mention of a potential Missouri Association was a letter dated June 25, 1907 that went out to all the Lodges in the state asking their representative to meet at the Sharford Hotel in Philadelphia on July 17th during the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention.

The first organizational meeting of the Missouri Elks Association took place in Mexico, Missouri Lodge #919 on October 12, 1909 and Norman M. Vaughn of St. Louis Lodge #9, was elected the first president of the Association. President Vaughn served until the first annual convention of the Missouri Elks Association held in Mexico Lodge #919 on June 17th and 18th, 1910 when Fred A. Morris of Mexico was elected State president for 1910-1911.

The State Conventions are governed by a number of constitutions under Grand Lodge sanction. The first constitution was adopted at Jefferson City, September 12, 1917. This was followed by a constitution approved

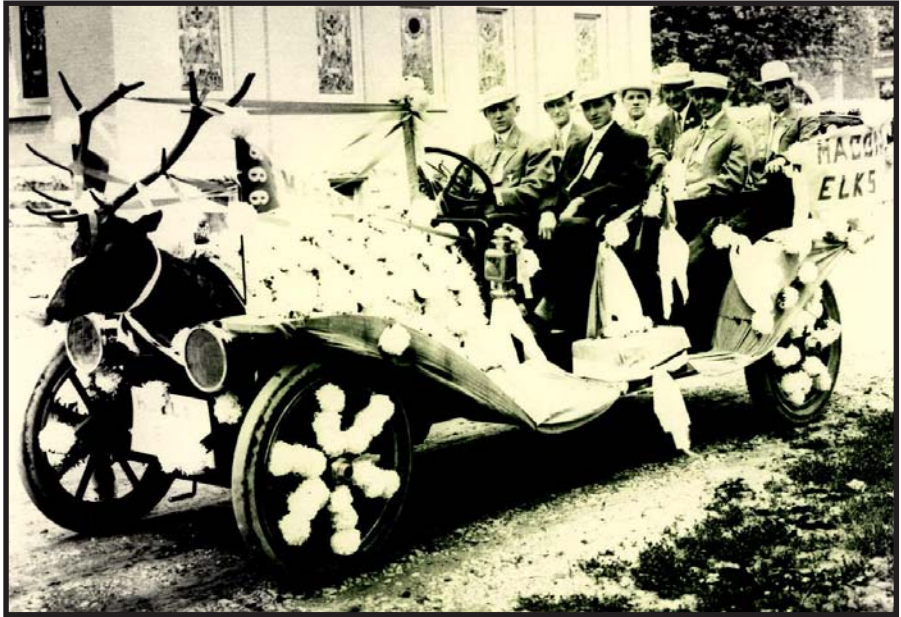
April 28, 1932, and a third was approved June 2, 1948, and fourth adopted May 23, 1965 by the State Association and approved June 28, 1965 by the Grand Lodge. The Constitution and By-Laws were amended in 1979 and had a general Revision in 1993 and have been revised every five years since that time. The Association Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri May 2, 1993.

It was not until the adoption of the 1932 constitution that it was required that the State President and Vice President be an Exalted Ruler or Past Exalted Ruler of a lodge in good standing in the association, and must reside within the Jurisdiction. Norman N. Vaughn, the first president was not an Exalted Ruler.



Col. Fred A. Morris

Prior to 1915 the Constitution of the order provided that there should be no branches, adjuncts, or auxiliaries in the Order. Consequently State Elks Associations as we know them today, didn't come into existence easily with Grand Lodge recognition. However our fraternal origin among fun-loving and footloose theatricals quite naturally resulted in social gatherings at every chance meeting across the continent, and eventually evolved into preplanned and purely social "Reunion" of Elks in districts, States and even larger areas in turn-of-the-century America.



Macon Elk members in 1910 Mexico, Mo Elks parade. Front seat left-right Harry Rubey, Luke Hunckle, Right middle R. Carr, Roy Fox, Back center Dan Hughes, Chas Bennett, Andy Romjue

These involved whole trains being chartered and whistle stopping at each Lodge town to pick up additional Elks, their marching bands, drill teams and families. The target town was festooned and entertainments such as special baseball games, park concerts, riverboat rides and fire-works had been arranged long in advance. The first day of such Reunions always involved the Elks Parade down Main Street to the hall selected for the vast banquet. After a week of festivities, the whole exhausted herd would embark by rail back to hamlets where each antlered contingent would noisily salute the departing train cars from the platform and then wind their tired paths homeward. But then, just as today, putting two Elks together in the same room means that before long a discussion would ensure about any and every facet of our beloved Order, and this marked



tendency to “get down to business” at even the most lighthearted and frivolous social event inexorably caused the specter of formalized state associations concocting motions, votes and resolutions to appear in all of National Elksdom like Banquo’s ghost.

As far back as the early 1890’s the question of state organizations was a matter of vociferous, if not widespread, discussion among the members of the Grand Lodge. Although at the time its advocates were actually aiming at State organizations which would legislate for their own states under the directives of a supreme National Lodge.



*Missouri State Elks 2nd Annual Reunion
Macon Missouri • June 22-23, 1911*

The agitation for State Associations during the 1890's never reached the floor of the Grand Lodge but was confined mainly to sidewalk and hotel lobby conversation. At that time it was evident that subordinate lodges never would sell their birthright for a form of government that would rob them of their participation in legislative activities in Grand Lodge sessions. With Elkdom having had a successful existence up to that point through the simple and effective means of all Lodges, through local representatives, participating in the Grand Lodge's decisions, both national leaders and many lodges did not see any advantage to be gained by inserting another level of administration. The suspicion harbored by many Elks was that the new link in the chain of command would add burdens and demands to each Lodge's responsibilities and cause their wishes at the least to lose force and clarity when collectively transmitted through a state representative, sort of 'loosing something in translation'. Carried to its worst extreme, many saw their voice being silenced in the future with nonresponsive state functionary maneuvering for private motivations similar to political figures of the period.

Nevertheless, there could be no denying the value and representational weight of large groups of Elks converging annually in many states, regardless of their original social purposes when the vanguard of these state organizations began gaining praise for their localized benevolence which only redounded to the credit of the Order about the beginning of this century, more states began to organize into associations and carried on without benefit of recognition regardless of constitutional prohibitions.

The oldest of the Elk State Associations are the Ohio Elks Association, formed in 1898 and the Georgia Elks Association that was formed in 1902. By 1906, the movement toward the organization of State Associations had developed to the point where Grand Lodge action was



Springfield 1912

imperative. Grand Exalted Ruler Robert W. Brown noted this at Grand Lodge in Denver stating "While no ban has been placed upon State Associations, it is probable that if they are going to be continued the Grand Lodges should describe their sphere." By 1914 there were 23 state associations in existence, although they were illegal. Today there are 49 state Associations, with California and Hawaii combining into one association. So Missouri forming their own association in 1909 was one of the early State Associations which were formed. During the 1914 Grand Lodge Convention in Denver the movement to bring them within the Order gained momentum especially as proponents of the State Association concept had abandoned their view of grasping Grand Lodge powers and realized the greater benefit to be found in Constitutional acceptance and participation of the full membership in both state and national programs of benevolence.

At the Grand Lodge Session in Los Angeles in, 1915 a comprehensive report on state associations was submitted to the delegates. The report recommended recognition of state associations and a necessary constitutional revision. Delegates approved and the change was sent to the subordinate lodges for ratification, where it was accepted, putting the revision into effect and legalizing state associations.

On January 5th, 1917 a conference was held in St. Louis by Grand Lodge committee on State Associations and was attended by 135 representatives of 35 State Associations. This conference drafted a uniform constitution and by laws and a Ritual for the installation of officers of State Associations

At the State Convention held at Excelsior Springs, Mo. on September 6, 1922 it was adopted that the president for the ensuing year is authorized and directed to appoint as many district presidents as he deems advisable. The duties of the District President shall be to visit the lodges in their respective districts and to stimulate the zeal and activity of said lodges in the work and principles of Elksdom, and to cause said lodges to cooperate and visit one another. In that year President Meriwether divided Missouri into seven districts and appointed a president for each district. First district: St. Louis, Poplar Bluff, Cape Girardeau, DeSoto, St. Charles and Caruthersville. Second District: Lexington, Excelsior Springs, Marshall, Kansas City and Independence. Third District: Jefferson City, Columbia, Louisiana, Mexico, Hannibal, Rich Hill, and Clinton. Sixth District: Carrollton, Kirksville, Richmond,

and Fulton. Fourth District: St. Joseph, Chillcothe, Marysville, Trenton, and Brookfield. Fifth District: Sedalia, Nevada, Warrensburg, Butler, Moberly, and Macon. Seventh District: Springfield, Joplin, Carthage, Aurora, Webb City, Monett and Neosho. Also in other years, the president would appoint more District presidents, up to one year, when they appointed some fifteen, with actually some districts only having two lodges.

Also, it appears that there was no State Convention for some 3 years, probably from 1925 until 1929. It is noted that Sam D. Byrns was the State President for three years. There was a State Convention held at Sedalia June 10, 1929 and at the meeting the State Convention was reviewed. As far as I can tell the State Association has been going fairly strong since then. Although J.A. Hamilton was state president from 1929 until 1931, and Dr. M.E. Gouge of Sedalia was president from 1931 until 1935. I can find no reason for this action.

Parades certainly played a big part in State Convention as well as the National Grand Lodge Conventions, and Missouri always seems to have a large number of parade entries. They seem to earn a high place among delegates as putting on a good show. For many years State Conventions were held at the various lodge homes, with the banquet also held there in the evening with the ladies present. The registration fee was \$10.00 which included the Elks Lady, later an additional \$5.00 was charged for the lady. Lodge dues at that time around the state were around \$10.00 a year. Before air conditioning, convention groups socialized on the front porches at the Joplin, Sedalia, and St. Joseph Lodges among others. Also on the patio of St. Louis Lodge #9.

A total of 150 registrations was considered a well attended Spring Convention, with a lesser number attending the Fall Convention. Groups taking a short cut, happily walked through the alleys and walkways after convention meetings, one place for instance from the Columbia Lodge then located at 16A South 9th Street, to their rooms at the Tiger, or Daniel Boone Hotel.

The Fall Convention in 1939 was held in Columbia on November 4th and 5th and as an inducement to attend everyone sending an advance reservation got a ticket to the Missouri - Nebraska game to be played that Saturday afternoon. It turned out to be a great game to attend. Missouri beat Nebraska (who was rated #10 in the nation at that time) 27 to 13 in what would be Missouri's first win over a ranked opponent. (AP had just started ranking teams in 1936)

The major projects of the Association were the Eye Glass and Boys

Camp programs. The official publication in those early days was the Elks HORN-ET published at Sedalia, Missouri.

A Tiler, sergeant-at-arms and chaplain were the only appointments of the elected State President. The “hospitality” at that time was visiting in the various delegate’s rooms, sitting in most cases on the bed and enjoying the refreshments and the conversation.

State Associations are voluntary organizations, but with so many of our programs starting at local Lodges and progressing through District, State and National levels it would be virtually impossible for a Lodge to properly serve its community and not be a member of their State Association. Every State Association has major projects in the field of helping crippled children, visually handicapped youngsters, medical research, cerebral palsy, clinics, hospitals for crippled children, youth camps, scholarships, etc.

One of the major objectives of the Missouri Elks Association is to promote goodwill in the community. This is accomplished by supporting projects in the community which will provide for its citizens services which would not otherwise be available. The Missouri Elks Association had a Major Projects Committee which reviewed all proposals for community projects as well as to review existing programs. This Committee was organized on May 28, 1961 when George E. Murray, the President of the Missouri Elks Association proposed adoption of a Major Project and appointed the first committee members.

The Major Projects Committee was organized in response to an unanimous vote of the Association members during the Spring Meeting in 1961. Prior to this the Missouri Elks Association sponsored programs which consisted of a two weeks boy’s camp and providing eyeglasses for needy children. Since these two programs were faltering, it was decided to discontinue the programs and seek a program which would gain a more enthusiastic support of all Missouri Elks.

The first meeting of the Committee was held in Columbia on June 25, 1961. At this meeting the Committee suggested that the Chairman, Anthony J. Beckmann, meet with Doctor H. M. Hardwicke, Acting Director of the Division for Health of Missouri, to determine which program was most needed in the state and what the Elks could do to reach the most people with the best possible use of their dollars.

When Chairman Beckmann conferred with Doctor Harwicke, the Doctor presented several programs for consideration. They were: (1) Dental treatment for school children, who, because of their parents

unwillingness or inability to provide needed care, or because they live in areas where no dental care is available; (2) Dental care for the physically handicapped who could not be treated for lack of adequately trained dentists in this field; (3) Mobile X-ray units; (4) Dental care for aged and indigent residents of nursing homes.

The Major Projects Committee solicited other State Elks Associations for information concerning their major projects. An Executive Committee consisting of President George E. Murray, Chairman Anthony Beckmann and R. Max Frye was subsequently authorized to conduct further negotiations and to take the necessary steps to get a program in operation as soon as possible.

After much deliberation in Committee, and several consultations with Doctor Hardwicke and his staff, four programs were presented for consideration. The Missouri Sate Elks Association unanimously voted for the proposal which would provide: (1) To bring to the handicapped children of the State of Missouri, through the use of mobile unites, dental services not readily available to them; (2) To render suck adequate services to those children, who are office manageable and not requiring general anesthesia or heavy sedation, who are not being cared for by the private practitioners of dentistry; (3) That the child and his family be educated to the need and availability of such services; (4) That restorative and preventative procedures be accomplished as are deemed advisable based on the individual requirements, attitudes and physical condition of each patient as determined by competent professionals.

The Governor appointed Elks George E. Murray, R. Max Frye, Anthony J. Beckmann and Tom Briggs along with 17 doctors as members of a "Governor's Commission on Dental Treatment of Handicapped and Crippled Children." This Commission determines the policies and standards in carrying this program made possible by the generosity of the Missouri Elks Association.

The Division of Health of Missouri agreed to staff each mobile unit with a dentist, a dental assistant, and a public health nurse and to furnish the materials required by the unit to accomplish its task. The Elks agreed to be responsible for insurance, maintenance and the transportation of the units from one location to the other. Within limitations determined locally by each Lodge, The Elks also agreed to provide transportation of patients to and from the units when transportations is not otherwise available.

Those who are eligible for treatment in the mobile dental units are children between the ages of 3 and 21 who are reviving medial treatment under the sponsorship of the Missouri Crippled Children's Service who

can be treated without the need of a general anesthetic. Children who have rheumatic fever or cerebral palsy who are referred to the unit by their physician or dentist are also eligible for dental treatment.

There are four Elks Mobile Dental Units in operation. The first unit was delivered fully equipped and donated to the state and began its work in Washington on November 13, 1962. The second unit began its operation in Maryville on July 11, 1963, the third in Kansas City on April 20, 1965 and the fourth at St. Louis County on June 20, 1966.

The Major Project Committee's activities were merged with the Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust, Incorporated at the State Association Meeting in Joplin in September, 1962. In July of 1980 a contract was established with Truman Medical Center Lakewood to assume responsibility for the program within 70 western counties of the state with Washington University School of Dental Medicine overseeing the eastern 46 counties. In October of 1984 TMC Lakewood assumed operation in all counties of the state.

The Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust, Inc. purchase the equipment for the program, the custom coaches, dental chairs, etc. and provides over \$200,000.00 each year for the operation of the program. The latest mobile unit was purchased in 2002 with a total cost after all equipment was added of \$189,000.00.

When operating at full strength the program has provided dental services to approximately 3000 patients at a value of close to \$600,000.00 per year. Since 1992 the program has delivered over \$4,000,000.00 worth of procedures and services.

The Missouri Elks Association is now comprised of seventy-six lodges with a membership of 30565 from every part of our State. Each of these lodges contributes to the growth of our association, as the Association helps each lodge to be a better and stronger lodge. Thus each helps the other, and both the lodges within our state and our State Association have a fine future. We can be proud of all of the Elks who devoted the time to further Elkdom throughout the State.

The living Past State Presidents are the Advisory Board and nomination committee for the State of Missouri Elks Association. They meet on a regular basis to consider ways to further the Order, and what great success they have had. We know they will continue their great tradition and lead Missouri Elkdom to even a higher plane.

-Much of this article was written by Missouri State Historian Lee Sparks for a special edition of Shozem printed during Grand Lodge in 1991. Editing, additions and updating were provided by PSP's Richard Techau and Carroll Schleeter

Grand Lodge Conventions

St. Louis Lodge #9, has hosted five National Grand Lodge Conventions, 1899, 1939, 1953, 1991 and 2003. The building they used for sixty two years was purchased with a ten thousand dollar down payment that they had realized from a carnival and animal circus. The total purchase price was \$37,500. The building was a four story gray stone



mansion at 3619 Lindell Boulevard, and was built in 1882 by Peter L. Foy a newspaper publisher who when was postmaster for St.Louis and had been appointed by President Abraham Lincoln.



Kansas City # 26 has hosted two Grand Lodge Conventions in 1934 and 1999. The building they used for 53 years was purchased by the Lodge in 1898. The ornate building at Seventh Street and Grand Avenue known as the “Wisconsin Building”, was originally erected by the State of Wisconsin for display at the 1893 Chicago Worlds’ Fair.

After the fair, the building was purchased by J.C. Rogers, a Wamego, Kansas banker. He had the Wisconsin Building torn down, shipped to Kansas City and rebuilt in 1894. It first operated as the Wisconsin Club, then as an annex to the Midland Hotel prior to the Lodge’s purchase. In 1907 an addition was added to the building that included a lodge meeting room, gymnasium and swimming pool.

Grand Lodge Sponsors

Grand Lodge sponsors for Missouri have been few since 1920, the first was Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Campbell of East St.Louis, Illinois and he was succeeded by Past Grand Exalted Rulers Joseph B. Kyle of Gary, Indiana who in turn was followed in September 1958 by Past Grand Exalted Ruler H.L. Blackledge of Kearney, Nebraska, and from July 1969 to July 1992 by Past Grand Exalted Ruler Edward W. McCabe of Nashville, Tennessee. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Ted Callicott of Paris, Tennessee joined Past Grand McCabe from 1990 till 1992 as co-sponsor and became our state sponsor in July of 1992 and remains so as of this writing.

Missouri Elks Membership Since 1935**

| Year | Members | Year | Members | Year | Members |
|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| 1935 | 5682 | 1964 | 11816 | 1993 | 27616 |
| 1936 | 5519 | 1965 | 12094 | 1994 | 27782 |
| 1937 | 5157 | 1966 | 12969 | 1995 | 27760 |
| 1938 | 4923 | 1967 | 13423 | 1996 | 27618 |
| 1939 | 5029 | 1968 | 13895 | 1997 | 27510 |
| 1940 | 5108 | 1969 | 14162 | 1998 | 27441 |
| 1941 | 5243 | 1970 | 14677 | 1999 | 27482 |
| 1942 | 5115 | 1971 | 15328 | 2000 | 27473 |
| 1943 | 5363 | 1972 | 16012 | 2001 | 27609 |
| 1944 | 6184 | 1973 | 16361 | 2002 | 27667 |
| 1945 | 7184 | 1974 | 17106 | 2003 | 27747 |
| 1946 | 8315 | 1975 | 17960 | 2004 | 27772 |
| 1947 | 8942 | 1976 | 18613 | 2005 | 28118 |
| 1948 | 9632 | 1977 | 19238 | 2006 | 28945* |
| 1949 | 10086 | 1978 | 20127 | 2007 | 29387* |
| 1950 | 10719 | 1979 | 21140 | 2008 | 29935* |
| 1951 | 11247 | 1980 | 22175 | 2009 | 30565* |
| 1952 | 12164 | 1981 | 22939 | | |
| 1953 | 12687 | 1982 | 23060 | | |
| 1954 | 13163 | 1983 | 23963 | | |
| 1955 | 13146 | 1984 | 25166 | | |
| 1956 | 12933 | 1985 | 25515 | | |
| 1957 | 12775 | 1986 | 25371 | | |
| 1958 | 12346 | 1987 | 25833 | | |
| 1959 | 12441 | 1988 | 26060 | | |
| 1960 | 12714 | 1989 | 26328 | | |
| 1961 | 12315 | 1990 | 26763 | | |
| 1962 | 12080 | 1991 | 27029 | | |
| 1963 | 11851 | 1992 | 27398 | | |

* #1 in the Nation in
Membership growth

** Earliest numbers
I could get

Missouri Lodges

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| St. Louis No. 9 | Instituted 5-28-1878 |
| Kansas City No. 26..... | Instituted 6-08-1884 |
| Saint Joseph No. 40..... | Instituted 3-11-1886 |
| Charter surrendered unknown | |
| Reinstituted 1-12-1901 - Charter surrendered 7-23-1992 | |
| Reinstituted 11-18-2006 as No. 2850 - No. 40 restored July 2007 | |
| Sedalia No. 125 | Instituted 5-25-1889 |
| Hannibal No. 210 | Instituted 6-27-1891 |
| Charter surrendered 3-24-1903 - Reinstituted 5-02-1910 as No. 1198 | |
| Springfield No. 409 | Instituted 3-05-1898 |
| Carrollton No. 415 | Instituted 5-12-1898 |
| Charter surrendered 4-12-1937 | |
| Kirksville No. 464 | Instituted 7-22-1899 |
| Charter surrendered 5-19-1934 | |
| Joplin No. 501 | Instituted 5-29-1899 |
| Jefferson City No. 513 | Instituted 6-16-1899 |
| Charter surrendered 4-03-1930 - Reinstituted 5-19-1938 | |
| Carthage No. 529 | Instituted 1-04-1900 |
| Charter surrendered 11-29-1933 | |
| Nevada No. 564 | Instituted 3-15-1900 |
| Popular Bluff No. 589 | Instituted 5-26-1900 |
| Charter surrendered 10-19-1928 - Reinstituted 8-30-1970 as No. 2452 | |
| Columbia No. 594 | Instituted 6-22-1900 |
| Cape Girardeau No. 639 | Instituted 1-19-1901 |
| Charter surrendered 6-30-1922 - Reinstituted 4-19-1923 as No. 1464 | |
| Charter surrendered 6-07-1933 -Reinstituted 3-15-1953 as No. 639 | |
| Chillicothe No. 656..... | Instituted 3-09-1901 |
| Charter surrendered 6-13-1935 - Reinstituted 10-20-1991 as No. 2770 | |
| No. 656 restored July 1996 | |
| Warrensburg No. 673 | Instituted 4-11-1901 |
| De Soto No. 689 | Instituted 5-04-1901 |
| St. Charles No. 690..... | Instituted 4-21-1901 |
| Aurora No. 697 | Instituted 5-17-1901 |
| Charter surrendered 01-01-1925 | |
| Lexington No. 749 | Instituted 12-20-1901 |
| Maryville No. 760 | Instituted 3-01-1902 |
| Louisiana No. 791 | Instituted 6-30-1902 |

Trenton No. 801 Instituted 8-05-1902
Richmond No. 834 Instituted 3-05-1903
 Charter surrendered 6-15-1928
Webb City No. 861 Instituted 5-08-1903
Brookfield No. 874 Instituted 6-30-1903
Mexico No. 919 Instituted 5-23-1904
 Charter surrendered 3-26-1934 - Reinstated 6-13-1983 as No. 2667
 Number restored to 919
Moberly No. 936 Instituted 10-18-1904
 Charter surrendered 5-1-1934
Butler No. 958 Instituted 3-29-1905
 Charter surrendered 4-01-1924
Macon No. 999 Instituted 9-26-1905
Excelsior Springs No. 1001 Instituted 10-14-1905
Rich Hill No. 1026 Instituted 4-13-1906
 Charter surrendered 2-15-1979
Clinton No. 1034 Instituted 6-22-1906
Marshall No. 1096 Instituted 11-11-1907
 Charter surrendered 4-05-1932
Monette No. 1132 Instituted 9-03-1908
 Charter surrendered 12-02-1924
Hannibal No. 1198 Instituted 5-02-1910
Fulton No. 1231 Instituted 4-18-1911
 Charter surrendered 3-11-1932
Caruthersville No. 1233 Instituted 4-26-1911
 Charter surrendered 6-12-1929
Independence No. 1302 Instituted 4-08-1913
 Charter surrendered 4-01-1923
Neosho No. 1330 Instituted 4-14-1916
 Charter surrendered 6-07-1933
Cape Girardeau No. 1464 Instituted 4-19-1923
 No. 659 restored 1953
Washington No. 1559 Instituted 6-30-1929
Festus-Crystal City No. 1721 Instituted 4-09-1947
Farmington No. 1765 Instituted 2-20-1949
Chaffee No. 1810 Instituted 4-16-1950
Clayton No. 1881 Instituted 3-22-1953
 Merged with Chesterfield 3-1-1988 to become Clayton-Chesterfield
 Merged into St. Louis No. 9 1990

Kirkwood- Des Peres No. 2058 Instituted 1-26-1957
 Name changed to Manchester 8-1-1982

Grandview-Hickman Mills No. 2088 ... Instituted 6-28-1958

Potosi No. 2218 Instituted 5-28-1961

Florissant No. 2316 Instituted 3-13-1965

Sikeston No. 2319 Instituted 3-14-1965

Arcadia Valley No. 2330 Instituted 6-19-1965

Meramec -Arnold No. 2372 Instituted 4-19-1967

Kansas City (Northland) No. 2376 Instituted 9-17-1967

West Plains No. 2418 Instituted 1-05-1969

Dexter No. 2439 Instituted 3-22-1970

Poplar Bluff No. 2452 Instituted 8-30-1970

High Ridge No. 2455 Instituted 1-03-1971

Rolla No. 2461 Instituted 4-25-1971

Crestwood No. 2503 Instituted 3-17-1974

Kimberling City No. 2505 Instituted 4-21-1974

Blue Springs No. 2509 Instituted 3-30-1974

Lake of the Ozarks No. 2517 Instituted 6-16-1974

Alton-Thayer No. 2545 Instituted 5-02-1976

Lebanon No. 2557 Instituted 3-27-1977

Mineral Area Community No. 2583 Instituted 11-05-1978

O'Fallon No. 2587 Instituted 3-04-1979

Lake Taneycomo No. 2597 Instituted 6-10-1979

Cameron No. 2615 Instituted 6-08-1980

Affton No. 2635 Instituted 3-14-1982

Eureka-Pacific No. 2644 Instituted 10-17-1982

St. Clair No. 2651 Instituted 1-03-1983

Jackson No. 2652 Instituted 1-29-1983

Bates County No. 2653 Instituted 2-27-1983

Warrenton No. 2662 Instituted 6-18-1983

Ellisville No. 2664 Instituted 6-18-1983

Overland No. 2665 Instituted 7-09-1983
 Merged into St. Louis No. 9 4-30-1988

Mexico No. 2667 Instituted 9-25-1983
 Restored to No. 919

Sainte Genevieve No. 2674 Instituted 11-20-1983

Cedar Hill No. 2678 Instituted 2-25-1984

Perryville No. 2701 Instituted 4-27-1986

Osage Community No. 2705 Instituted 2-23-1986

Chesterfield No. 2711 Instituted 11-23-1986
 Merged into Clayton No. 1881 3-01-1988

Oakville No. 2726 Instituted 6-21-1987

Kennett No. 2728.....
 Dispensation granted 4-14-1987 never Instituted

St. Louis - South No. 2736 Instituted 1-16-1988
 Charter surrendered 1-10-1994

Fulton No. 2746
 Dispensation granted 11-28-1988 never Instituted

Chillicothe No. 2776..... Instituted 10-20-1991
 No. 656 restored July 1996

Christian County No. 2777 Instituted 12-05-1992

Benton County No. 2783 Instituted 2-27-1994

Cass County No. 2791 Instituted 1-13-1996

Lamar No. 2800..... Instituted 11-09-1996

Lees Summit No. 2804 Instituted 5-02-1998

Troy No. 2805 Instituted 4-04-1998

Fredericktown No. 2812 Instituted 12-04-1999

Milan No. 2819 Instituted 3-3-2001

Bolivar No. 2828..... Instituted 1-18-2003

St. Joseph No. 2850 Instituted 11-18-2006
 No. 40 restored July 2007

Greenview No. 2857 Instituted 9-13-2008

Lake Stockton No. 2858..... Instituted 11-15-2008

Adrian No. 2864 Instituted 6-07-2009

THE EVOLUTION OF GRAND LODGE DISTRICTS WITHIN MISSOURI

(Editors note: Sometimes it seems to be repeating, but every entry marks some change to the District)

EAST DISTRICT

In 1935 the East District consisted of St. Louis No. 9, Poplar Bluff no. 589, Columbia No. 594, Chillicothe No. 656, De Soto No. 689, St. Charles No. 690, Louisiana No. 791, Trenton No. 801, Brookfield No. 874, Moberly No. 936, Macon No. 999, Hannibal No. 1198, Washington No. 1559.

In 1940 - 41 the East District consisted of St. Louis No. 9, Jefferson City No. 513, Columbia No. 594, DeSoto No. 689, St. Charles No. 690, Louisiana No. 791, Hannibal No. 1198, and Washington No. 1559.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

In 1958 the East District was designated as the Northeast District consisting of Columbia No. 594, St. Charles No. 690, Louisiana No. 791, Brookfield No. 874, Macon No. 999, Hannibal No. 1198, Clayton No. 1881, and Kirkwood-Desperes No. 2058.

In 1971-72 the Northeast District consisted of St. Charles No. 690, Louisiana No. 791, Brookfield No. 874, Macon No. 999, Hannibal No. 1198, Clayton No. 1881, Kirkwood-Des Peres No. 2058 and Florissant No. 2316.

In 1978-79 the Northeast District consisted of Jefferson City No. 513, Columbia No. 594, St. Charles No. 690, Louisiana No. 791, Macon No. 999, Hannibal No. 1198, Washington No. 1559, and Florissant No. 2316.

O'Fallon Lodge No. 2587 was instituted on March 4, 1979 and was added to the Northeast District.

Warrenton Lodge No. 2662 was instituted on June 18, 1983 and Mexico Lodge No. 2667 was instituted on September 25, 1983 and both Lodges were added to the Northeast District.

In 1984-85 the District consisted of Jefferson City No. 513, Columbia No. 594, Louisiana No. 791, Macon No. 999, Hannibal No. 1198, Washington No. 1559, St. Clair No. 2651, O'Fallon No. 2587, Warrenton No. 2662 and Mexico No. 2667

In 1985-86 St. Clair Lodge No. 2651 was transferred from the East Central District to the Northeast District.

In 2007-08 the Northeast District consisted of Jefferson City No. 513, Columbia No. 594, Louisiana No. 791, Mexico No. 919, Macon No. 999, Hannibal No. 1198, Washington No. 1559, O'Fallon No. 2587, St. Clair No. 2651, and Warrenton No. 2662.

WEST DISTRICT

In 1935 the West District consisted of Kansas City No. 26, St. Joseph No. 40, Sedalia No. 125, Springfield No. 409, Carrollton No. 415, Joplin No. 501, Nevada No. 564, Warrensburg No. 673, Lexington No. 749, Maryville No. 760, Webb City No. 861, Excelsior Springs No. 1001, Rich Hill No. 1026, Clinton No. 1034.

In 1940-41 the West District was designated as the Northwest District consisting of Kansas City No. 26, St. Joseph No. 40, Lexington No. 749, Maryville No. 760, Trenton No. 801, Brookfield No. 874, Macon No. 999, Excelsior Springs No. 1001.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

In 1958-59 the Northwest District consisted of Kansas City No. 26, St. Joseph No. 40, Lexington No. 749, Maryville No. 760, Trenton No. 801, Excelsior Springs No. 1001, and Grandview-Hickman Mills No. 2088.

In 1971-72 the Northwest District consisted of Kansas City No. 26, St. Joseph No. 40, Lexington No. 749, Maryville No. 760, Trenton No. 801, Excelsior Spring No. 1001, Grandview-Hickman Mills No. 2088, Kansas City (Northland) No. 2376.

Blue Springs No. 2509 was Instituted 3-30-1974 and added to the Northwest District

In 1978-79 the Northwest District consisted of Kansas City No. 26, St. Joseph No. 40, Lexington No. 749, Maryville No. 760, Trenton No. 801, Brookfield, No. 874, Excelsior Springs No. 1001, Kansas City (Northland) No. 2376.

Cameron Lodge No. 2615 was instituted on June 8, 1980 and added to the Northwest District.

In 1984-85 the Northwest District consisted of Kansas City No. 26, St. Joseph No. 40, Lexington No. 749, Maryville No. 760, Trenton No. 801, Brookfield No. 874, Excelsior Springs No. 1001, Kansas City (Northland) No. 2376 and Cameron No. 2615.

Milan Lodge No. 2819 was instituted on March 4, 2001 and added to the Northwest District.

In 2008-09 the Northwest District consist of Chillicothe No. 656, Maryville No. 760, Trenton No. 801, Brookfield No. 874, Excelsior Springs No. 1001, Cameron No. 2615, Milan No. 2819 and St. Joseph No. 2850 (40).

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

In 1940-41 Missouri obtained the third district designated as the Southwest District consisting of Sedalia No. 125, Springfield No. 409, Joplin No. 501, Nevada No. 564, Warrensburg No. 673, Webb City No. 861, Rich Hill No. 1026, and Clinton No. 1034.

In 1958-59 the Southwest District consisted of Sedalia No. 125, Springfield No. 409, Joplin No. 501, Nevada No. 564, Warrensburg No. 673, Webb City No. 861, Rich Hill No. 1026, and Clinton No. 1034.

In 1971-72 the Southwest District consisted of Sedalia No. 125, Springfield No. 409, Joplin No. 501, Nevada No. 564, Warrensburg No. 673, Webb City No. 861, Rich Hill No. 1026, Clinton No. 1034 and West Plains No. 2418.

In 1978-79 the Southwest District consisted of Springfield No. 409, Joplin No. 501, Webb City No. 861, West Plains No. 2418, Rolla No. 2461, Kimberling City No. 2505, Alton-Thayer No. 2545 and Lebanon No. 2557.

In 1984-85 the Southwest District consisted of Springfield No. 409, Joplin No. 501, Webb City No. 861, West Plains No. 2418, Rolla No. 2461, Kimberling City No. 2505, Alton-Thayer No. 2545, Lebanon No. 2557 and Lake Taneycomo No. 2597.

Christian County Lodge No. 2777 was instituted on December 5, 1992 and added to the Southwest District.

In 2007-08 the Southwest District consisted of Springfield No. 409, Joplin No. 501, Webb City No. 861, West Plains No. 2418, Rolla No. 2461, Kimberling City No. 2505, Alton-Thayer No. 2545, Lebanon No. 2557, and Lake Taneycomo No. 2597 and Christian County No. 2777.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

In 1958-59 Missouri obtained the fourth District designated as the Southeast District consisting of St. Louis No. 9, Jefferson City No. 513, Cape Girardeau No. 639, DeSoto No. 689, Washington No. 1559, Festus-Crystal City No. 1721, Farmington No. 1765, and Chaffee No. 1810.

In 1971-72 the Southeast District consisted of Cape Girardeau No. 639, Festus-Crystal City No. 1721, Farmington No. 1765, Chaffee No. 1810, Sikeston No. 2319, Arcadia Valley No. 2330, Dexter no. 2439, Poplar Bluff No. 2452, and Rolla No. 2461.

In 1974 Potosi Lodge No. 2218 was transferred from the Cental District to the Southeast District

In 1978-79 the Southeast District consisted of Cape Girardeau No. 639, Farmington No. 1765, Chaffee No. 1810, Potosi No. 2218, Sikeston no. 2319, Arcadia Valley No. 2330, Dexter No. 2439, Poplar Bluff No. 2452.

In 1984-85 the Southeast District consisted of Cape Girardeau No. 639, Farmington No. 1765, Chaffee No. 1810, Sikeston No. 2319, Arcadia Valley No. 2330, Dexter No. 2439, Poplar Bluff No. 2452, Mineral Area Community No. 2583, Jackson No. 2652.

Perryville Lodge No. 2701 was instituted on April 27, 1986 and added to the Southeast District.

Fredericktown Lodge No. 2812 was instituted on December 4, 1999 and added to the Southeast District.

In 2007-08 the Southeast District consisted of Cape Girardeau No. 639, Farmington No. 1765, Chaffee No. 1810, Sikeston No. 2319, Arcadia Valley No. 2330, Dexter No. 2439, Poplar Bluff No. 2452, Mineral Area Community No. 2583, Jackson No. 2652, Perryville No. 2701, and Fredericktown No. 2812.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

In 1971-72 Missouri obtained the fifth District designated as the central District consisting of St. Louis No. 9, Jefferson City No. 513, Columbia No. 594, DeSoto No. 689, Washington No. 1559, Potosi No. 2218, Meramec (Arnold) No. 2372, High Ridge No. 2455.

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

In 1978-79 The Central District was changed to the East Central District consisting of St. Louis No. 9, DeSoto No. 689, Festus-Crystal City No. 1721, Clayton No. 1881, Kirkwood-DesPeres No. 2058, Meamac-Arnold No. 2372, High Ridge No. 2455 and Crestwood No. 2503

In 1984-85 the East Central District consisted of DeSoto No. 689, Festus-Crystal City No. 1721, Potosi No. 2218, Meramec (Arnold) No. 2372, High Ridge No. 2455, Eureka-Pacific No. 2644, St. Genevieve No. 2674, Cedar Hill No. 2678, Oakville No. 2726.

In 2007-08 the East Central District consisted of DeSoto No. 689, Festus-Crystal City No. 1721, Potosi No. 2218, Meramec (Arnold) No. 2372, High Ridge No. 2455, Eureka-Pacific No. 2644, St. Genevieve No. 2674, Cedar Hill No. 2678, and Oakville No. 2726.



WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

In 1978-79 Missouri obtained the sixth District designated as the West Central District consisting of Sedalia No. 125, Nevada No. 564, Warrensburg No. 673, Rich Hill No. 1026, Clinton No. 1034, Grandview-Hickman Mills No. 2088, Blue Springs No. 2509, and Lake of the Ozarks No. 2517.

In 1984-85 the West Central District consisted of Sedalia No. 125, Nevada No. 564, Warrensburg No. 673, Rich Hill No. 1026, Clinton No. 1034, Grandview-Hickman Mills No. 2088, Blue Springs No. 2509, and Lake of the Ozarks No. 2517, Bates County No. 2653.

Osage Community Lodge No. 2705 was instituted on February 23, 1986 and added to the West Central District.

Benton County Lodge No. 2783 was instituted on February 27, 1994 and added to the West Central District.

Cass County Lodge No. 2791 was instituted on January 13, 1996 and added to the West Central District.

Lamar Lodge No. 2800 was instituted on November 9, 1996 and added to the West Central District.

Lee's Summit Lodge No. 2804 was instituted on May 2, 1998 and added to the West Central District.

Bolivar Lodge No. 2828 was instituted on January 18, 2003 and added to the West Central District.

In 2008-09 the West Central District consist of Sedalia No. 125, Nevada No. 564, Clinton No., 1034, Lake of the Ozarks No. 2517, Bates County No. 2653, Osage Community No. 2705, Benton County No. 2783, Lamar No. 2800 and Bolivar No. 2820.

Greenview Lodge No. 2857 was instituted September 13, 2008 and Lake Stockton Lodge No. 2858 was instituted November 15, 2008 and added to the West Central District.

Adrian No. 2864 was instituted June 7, 2009 and added to the West Central District.

METRO DISTRICT

In 1984-85 Missouri obtained the seventh District designated as the Metro District consisting of St.Louis No. 9, St.Charles No. 690, Clayton No. 1881, Manchester No. 2058, Florissant No. 2316, Crestwood No. 2503, Affton No. 2635, Ellisville No. 2664 and Overland No. 2665.

Troy Lodge No. 2805 was instituted on April 4, 1998 and added to the Metro District.

In July of 2007, the Metropolitan District (4780) was changed to Metropolitan-East District.

METRO EAST DISTRICT

In 2007-08 the Metro East District consisted of St.Louis No. 9, St.Charles No. 690, Manchester No. 2058, Florissant No. 2316, Crestwood No. 2503, Affton No. 2635, Ellisville No. 2664 and Troy No. 2805.

METRO WEST DISTRICT

In 2008-09 Missouri obtained the eighth District designated as the Metro West District consisting of Kansas City No. 26, Warrensburg No. 673, Lexington No. 749, Grandview-Hickmand Mills No. 2088, Kansa City (Northland) No. 2376, Blue Springs No. 2509, Cass County No. 2791 and Lee's Summitt No. 2804.



*Pin made by Kansas City #26
for the Grand Lodge Convention
held in Salt Lake City in 1902*

Early Lodge Home Pictures



St. Joseph #40



St. Joseph interior



Sedalia #125



Springfield #409 1898-1907
Exchange Bank - second floor



Kirksville #464



Joplin #501



Carthage #529



Interior Nevada Lodge



Nevada #564 (second floor)



Popular Bluff #589



Columbia #594



Cape Girardeau #639



Chillicothe #656



Lexington #749



Maryville #760



Trenton #801



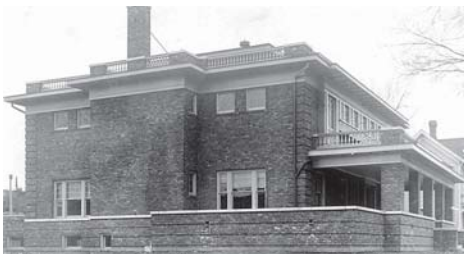
Louisiana #791 (second floor)
Bank of Louisiana



Richmond #834



Webb City #861



Brookfield #874



Mexico #919



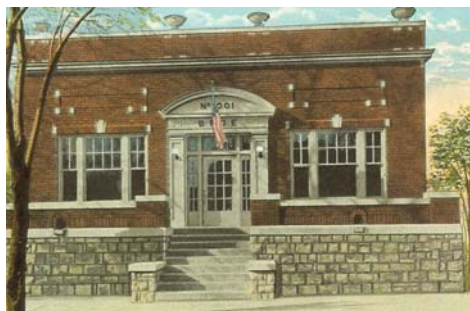
Moberly #936



Butler #958



Macon #999



Excelsior Springs #1001



Clinton #1034
(second floor far right building)



Monette #1132



National Home Bedford, VA - 1906

The Jolly Corks and the beginning of our Order

One day in early February 1868, some members of a New York City drinking club called the Jolly Corks wandered into Barnum's American Museum, looking for inspiration. They had recently decided their group should aspire to a higher purpose, and that they needed a more dignified name, something like the Order of the Buffaloes in England.



As they filed past the museum's taxidermy exhibits, they considered, and rejected, one animal after another. Bears: too violent. Beavers: too destructive. Foxes: too devious. Finally they came upon a strong-looking creature with proud, spreading antlers, about whom no negative qualities sprang to mind. When they brought the idea to a vote, on February 16, 1868, the majority agreed: the erstwhile Jolly Corks would from then on be known as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

The Elks can actually trace their history a few months farther back, to November 15, 1867, the day Charles Vivian, 25 years old, debarked from a British trading vessel in New York to try to make his fortune on the stage. With no possessions but the suit he was wearing, Vivian found his way to a downtown bar. Impromptu entertainment was customary back then, and that night the proprietor asked if any of the customers cared to perform a song.



Charles Vivian

Vivian, outgoing and confident, volunteered. His comic performance of “Jimmy Riddle” and his own composition, “Who Stole the Donkey” (whose rousing chorus went, “W-H-O with a who S-T-O-L-E with a stole,/ With a who stole. T-H-E with a who stole the/ D-O-N with a don, with a who stole the don,/ K-E-Y with a key, who stole the donkey?”), so impressed a theater manager in the audience that he offered Vivian a week’s booking on the spot.

Vivian’s weeklong engagement was such a success it was extended to two months. With his fine voice and charm, he was soon earning both rave reviews and a crowd of boisterous friends. Their one complaint was that New York had a law closing all the bars on Sunday, an actor’s one day off. But rather than go 24 hours without drinking, Vivian began to concoct a plan.

He had already imposed some organization on his gang by teaching them the tricks of the English Jolly Corks. Really just the perpetrators of an elaborate inside joke, the Jolly Corks always carried champagne corks in their pockets. Their leader, the Imperial Cork (a role Vivian assumed in New York), would toss a cork to a new mark in a pub and issue a challenge.

Everyone would place their corks on the bar, and when the Imperial Cork gave a signal, the last person to pick his up would have to buy the next round. At the signal, the insiders would leave their corks on the bar, making the dupe the only one to pick his up—and thus the last. But it was all in good fun, and after he paid for the round, the new man was part of the gang. Any Cork ever caught without his cork in public—one member even was even made to produce his at his wedding—was liable for the next gathering’s libations.

But now, with their Sunday alcohol supply cut off, Vivian began to think more broadly. Why not make the Jolly Corks into a formal club, with dues that could be used to buy kegs for Sunday parties? The others loved the idea, and the original 15 Corks—among them clerks, photographers, comedians, a pianist, an orchestra leader, an actor, a minstrel, and a wood turner—held their first “meeting” in mid-December in the attic of the boarding house where Vivian was staying.

Between bites of sandwiches and drafts of free-flowing beer, they conducted mock trials for pretend offenses, with the guilty fined to add to next week's beer fund. Those who sang badly were fined, as were those who sang well. By the end of the evening, the coffers overflowed.

The first meeting was such a success that the next week many Corks brought along friends, filling the boarding house with such a din that the landlady banned any future parties. The following week the Corks met in a room over a saloon, but with about 20 members, they had already begun to see the need for a more permanent arrangement.

Just before Christmas one of the Corks died, and as his theater colleagues gathered in mourning to contemplate the blunt brutality of life, they talked about using the group to help one another in times of hardship. As the Elk Charles Ellis later wrote, "the devotees of burnt cork, double clogs and melodies were scattered around the world, having nothing in common, and knowing no existing ties of brotherhood, and when overtaken by misfortune were exposed to the cold charities of the world, with none to cool a fevered lip or replenish a depleted purse." In January 1868 one of the Jolly Corks, George MacDonald, moved that "we resolve ourselves into a benevolent order," and the rest unanimously agreed.

With that, they became part of an increasingly popular phenomenon. By 1900 an estimated 40 percent of adult American men would belong to fraternal organizations. As the demands of a new economy in the 1800s took many fathers from homes and farms to workplaces in courts, stores, factories, and clerks' offices, it fell to mothers to inculcate children with religious and moral rectitude. And as men grew up and joined the Victorian workforce, many of them feared their mothers' rearing had made them too soft. Ritualistic societies gave them a way not only to socialize with their bosses and colleagues outside the stressful work environment but also to reframe their religious and social ideas in a more manly atmosphere.

Moreover, even if theater professionals like Vivian were not traditionally so constricted by prevailing notions of masculinity, they were still drawn by ritual. In London actors made up almost the entire rosters of some Masonic lodges, and music-hall performers had their own society, the Order of the Water Rat (whose ranks included King Rat, Scribe Rat, Bank Rat, and Musical Rat). Vivian himself had belonged to the Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffalo, which claimed members from Queen Elizabeth and William the Conqueror to Noah.

Vivian suggested naming the new order the Buffaloes, but the other Corks preferred something original and American. As the Elks' Grand Exalted Ruler Meade D. Detweiler explained in his earnestly florid 1898 history of the order, the Corks' zoological research turned up that "the elk of the animal kingdom stands out in direct opposition to those fierce scourges that leave, wherever they move, a trail of suffering; those inert and useless creatures whose life is a prolonged reign of sloth, and those whose habits are obnoxious to refined sensibilities." The elk in addition took "extreme care in regard to cleanliness and neatness of appearance . . . secured by frequent and copious ablutions," and would "avoid all combat except in fighting for the female and in defense of the young, the helpless, and the weak."

On February 16, 1868, they put it to a ballot. Vivian still favored Buffaloes, but he was outvoted. On that day "the undersigned members of the Theatrical, Minstrel, Musical, Equestrian and Literary Professions" who approved the new 15-article Constitution became the founding members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, bound "to promote, protect, and enhance the welfare and happiness of each other."

Most of the appended 21 rules codified the duties of the officers and the procedure for admitting new members; they also set initiation fees at \$2 and dues at 25 cents a week, and made divulging lodge secrets punishable by expulsion. The Jolly Corks had had no rituals aside from boyish pranks, but for the Elks Vivian pinched wholesale from the Buffaloes, right down to the rank titles. He was Right Honorable Primo, and below him served several layers of Deputy Primos. Once formally adopted in May, the new rituals involved regalia, Grand Exalted Rulers, long call-and-response prayers, and passwords.

By December, membership in the lodge had grown to 76, and the Elks had thrown their first charity ball. The Elks spread the word about the order on their business travels, and at the end of 1870 a group in Philadelphia inquired about forming its own lodge. On March 10, 1871, the New York State legislature approved the incorporation of a Grand Lodge with the authority to grant charters to new lodges around the country. The Philadelphia group got its charter two days later, while the original lodge was renamed New York Lodge No. 1. By 1898, 30 years after the Elks' founding, there were 425 lodges with more than 45,000 members. Today 2,100 lodges count Franklin D. Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Gerald Ford, Mickey Mantle, and Clint Eastwood among their present and past members.

Vivian, however, did not get to see his organization grow. In fact he presided over only two meetings after February 16, 1868. In March he went to Philadelphia on business, and when he returned in June a jealous and power-hungry George MacDonald tried to expel him. Tempers ran so high that the meeting was adjourned before the members reached a conclusion, but Vivian never returned to the order he had founded. He died of pneumonia at only 34 in 1880, in Leadville, Colorado.

When the Boston lodge discovered that a slab of wood with Vivian's name scratched on it was all that marked his grave, they reinterred him at Boston's Mount Hope cemetery, in a section called Elk's Rest. In doing so, the Boston lodge was merely fulfilling the Elks' original mission to look out for one another and the world at large. As Detweiler wrote, "It is enough for the Elk that he has met with woe that he can assuage . . . so effectively that the gushing tears of thankfulness replace the moans of misery, so unostentatiously that only the clear light of the hereafter will reveal the good which has been performed without the knowledge of the ebbing world around."

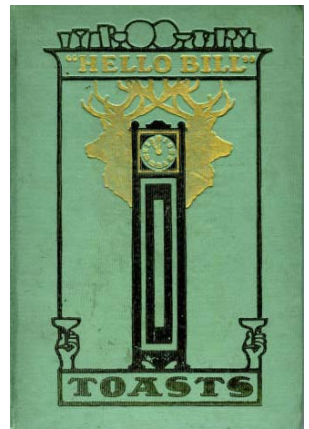
- Reprinted from American Heritage February 2006

ORIGIN OF "HELLO, BILL!"

WILLIAM GODDARD, of Minneapolis (Minn.) Lodge, No. 44, B. P. O. Elks, is the original "Hello Bill!" of Elkdom, and this cheerful salutation which has found its way around the world, originated in Minneapolis during the Elks' National Re-Union in that city in 1897. Brother Goddard is the junior partner of the Minneapolis firm of Barnaby & Company. He has been for a great many years the treasurer of Minneapolis Lodge, No. 44, B. P. O. Elks, and was Chairman of the Finance Committee, and a member of a great many other committees that had in charge the arrangements for the Elks' Re-Union of that year, and he spent a great deal of his time at the Committee headquarters.

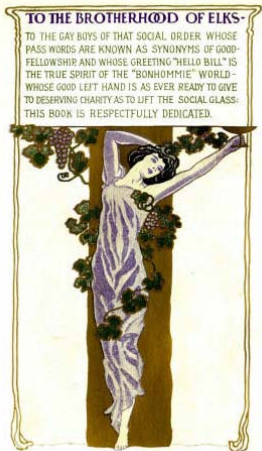
When visiting Elks came to the headquarters to inquire about matters they wanted to know about, if they happened to meet anybody who was not fully posted, they were usually told to "Go over there and ask Billy Goddard," and it was a constant strain of "Billy can tell you," "See Billy, he knows," etc., etc. This was repeated so incessantly that the stranger Elks when they approached Brother Goddard, greeted him with the expression, "Hello Bill! I was told to see you," etc., and so the custom started of greeting each other "Hello Bill!"

In a day or two the custom spread to the streets, with Elks from all parts of the country, and passing each other they sang out cheerfully, "Hello Bill!" and they carried the greeting back to their home lodges, and so it has spread around the ends of the earth. In 1903 a book entitled "Hello Bill Toasts" was compiled by Victor Williams and dedicated:



TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF ELKS-

TO THE GAY BOYS OF THAT SOCIAL ORDER WHOSE PASS WORDS ARE KNOWN AS SYNONYMS OF GOOD-FELLOWSHIP AND WHOSE GREETING "HELLO BILL" IS THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE "BONHOMIE" WORLD WHOSE GOOD LEFT HAND IS EVER READY TO GIVE TO DESERVING CHARITY AS TO LIFT THE SOCIAL GLASS THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED



HELLO BILL!

No matter where we travel,
Or where we chance to go,
If we're as rich as Croesus,
Or down and out you know,
It always gives one courage
And your heart a pleasant thrill
When you hear some jolly fellow say—
Hello Bill!

There's a mystic charm about it
That you cannot understand
When you get a hearty greeting
And a warm grasp of the hand;
But if you are a stranger
And you're homesick, tired and ill,
The sweetest words you ever heard are—
Hello Bill!

There's a maxim I will tell you,
And you know that it is true,
You must always do to others
As you'd have them do to you.
There's not many of us do it,
But there's some of us that will,
One of them's the fellow that says—
Hello Bill!

I was a stranger in the city,
I was poor, and sick, and thin,
Then I heard the bible story
"He was ill, ye took him in,"
And ye nursed me, and ye fed me,
And ye did it with a will;
God bless the dear old boy that says—
Hello Bill!



The greeting “Hello Bill” was still in popular usage with Elks as late as 1910 as this post card from Grand Lodge in Detroit Michigan that year shows.

It was also used on cards that had a slightly different message.



Early Rituals

The BPOE adopted several fraternal traditions similar to the Masonic Fraternity. An altar, decorated with the Holy Bible, is found in the center of every Lodge throughout Elkdom. Old Glory served as the altar's drapery until 1956, when it was given its own distinct place of honor to the right of the altar.

Since 1874, the Exalted Ruler and officers of every Elks Lodge began wearing the new Elks regalia, composed of a purple velvet collar with a small, fawn colored roll and a jewel with an Elk's head with a gilt edge on the collar.

The BPOE originally utilized a two-degree ritual; the second degree was discontinued in 1890. In fact, the BPOE Grand Lodge has outlawed any side degrees. The solemn and dignified BPOE Initiation Ritual of today is vastly different from the Initiation performed within our Lodges in those early days, with the early minutes of several Lodges, describing the now-solemn ritual in a far different vein.

Early candidates found that a physician's certificate of examination was necessary as a part of the joining process, and the male prospect had to be in top condition to even be considered. Then, once the candidate had met that criteria and was in

the Lodge room, he was blindfolded, and instead of dimmed lights and beautiful words, he was subjected to much horseplay. The minutes of the Ashland Lodge No. 384 describe in detail of their candidates wearing shoes with lead soles designed to make the wearer walk as though intoxicated.

The old Ritual Book spells out other trickery, with members agreeing with the Exalted Ruler's declaration that the candidates be "shaved." Once this decision was made, a "City Barber" appeared to the blindfolded candidates whereupon, with a dull file simulating a straight razor, he literally scraped the faces of the men to "shave" them. A few other jokes, all of which were contained in the Ritual Book, described each ordeal in great detail, such as

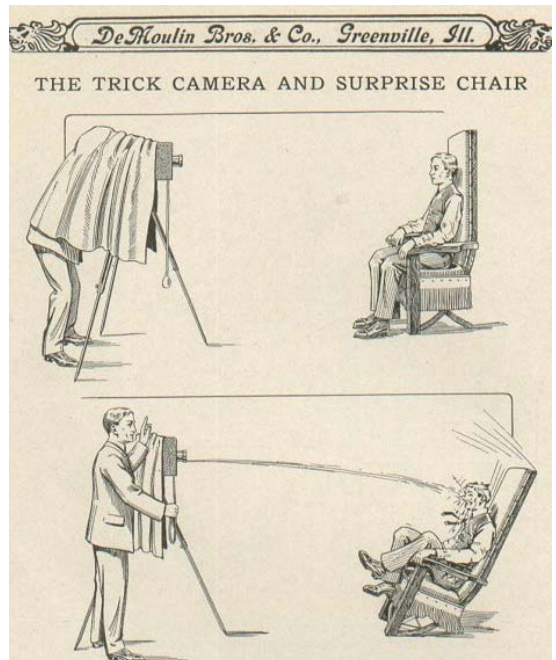


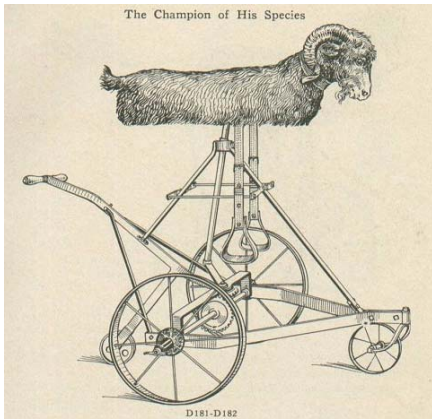
“walking on broken glass,” actually egg shells, and it even mentioned how to end the “horseplay” session with real guns, loaded with blanks, being fired off behind the now-weary and very confused new members.

In 1895, the Elks ceased the use of lambskin aprons in their initiatory work, the password was eliminated in 1899, in 1902 the use of a badge was eliminated, with the secret grip falling by the wayside in 1904 and the “Test Oath” was removed in 1911. In 1952, candidates were no longer blindfolded prior to the Initiation.

Both the old Rituals and the secret “grip” were not consigned to print, but were passed on verbally and physically, as is still currently done in some other fraternities. If you have ever seen the movie *PAPER MOON* in which a con man gains the trust of his victims by using the passwords and secret handshakes of many different organizations so as to pass for a member of whichever suited the circumstances, you may have seen our “grip” but we can neither confirm or deny that it appears. The movie was set in the 1920s, and the “grip” probably was perpetuated past 1904 when Grand Lodge officially discontinued it.

If you enjoy historical “spelunking,” you might try to find someone initiated before 1952, when the blindfolding of candidates was done away with (ER rapped four times as the signal to remove blindfolds), or even better, ask some of Elkdom’s older Lodges if they still have paraphernalia for the old “Part II” wherein pranks were played upon incoming members. Some of these were quite complex electro-mechanical wonders, while others squirted water or shot off blanks. DeMoulin Bros. & Co. Catalog No. 439 which can be found on numerous websites has a large number of these devices that they sold.





The most widespread practice was for each candidate to ride a live goat around the Lodge room. One of the most well-liked books written about lodges, fraternal groups, and goats was *The Lodge Goat and Goat Rides: Butts and Goat Hairs, Gathered from the Lodge Rooms of every Fraternal Order* (1902), compiled and edited by James Pettibone. The title page reads, “A little nonsense now and then is

relished by the best of men.” Its humor befits the period during which it was written, however, as it is neither politically correct nor sensitive by today’s standards. “Billy the Goat” opens the book claiming that the goat is simply around to provide mirth and entertainment. One story recalls a candidate who even provided his own goat for initiation.

A 1901 poem, “When Father Rode The Goat” should give some idea of the former initiation’s arduous nature:

The house is full of arnica
And mystery profound;
We do not dare to run about
Or make the slightest sound;
We leave the big piano shut
And do not strike a note;
The doctor’s been here seven times
Since father rode the goat.

He joined the lodge a week ago —
Got in at 4 a.m.
And sixteen brethren brought him home
Though he says he brought them.
His wrist WAS sprained and one big rip,
Had rent his Sunday coat —
There must have been a lively time
When father rode the goat.

He’s resting on the couch to-day!
And practicing his signs —
The hailing signal, working grip,
And other monkeyshines;
He mutters passwords ‘neath his breath,
And other things he’ll quote —
They surely had an evening’s work
When father rode the goat.

He has a gorgeous uniform,
All gold and red and blue;
A bat with plunges and yellow braid,
And golden badges too.
But, somehow, when we mention it,
He wears a look so grim
We wonder if he rode the goat
Or if the goat rode him.

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The Centennial Committee of Past State Presidents Richard Techau, Ross Jennings and Carroll Schleeter along with Vice Presidents elect Skip Bell, Ben Johnson, Jim Dougan, Patty Toben, Harold Colgin, Charlie Carroll, Russ Suda, and Bill Page expresses our appreciation to President Bill Walter for allowing us to put together this program and hopes everyone enjoys the Centennial Celebration.

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| 1943-44 George Klingman, Joplin 501 (Dec.) | 2002-03 Otto Sayles, Grandview, Hickman Mills 2008 |
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| 1962-63 Wayne A. Swanson, Maryville 760 (Dec.) | |
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| 1965-66 Howard A. Bopp, Clayton 1881 (Dec.) | |
| 1966-67 Wm. F. Gill, Grandview-Hickman Mills 2088 | |
| 1967-68 Eldon R. Welton, Nevada 564 (Dec.) | |

NOTE: (Dec.) after Past Presidents denotes Deceased.

