

II. History of Roseville Lodge #222 F&AM Roseville, California



Hall of Granite Lodge #222 circa 1882

**On the occasion of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the
Grand Lodge of California, Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of California**

**This history was researched, updated and revised by
Werner Schoenhoff, PM.
February, 1999**

**The first copy of this Lodge History
was presented to Brother Ken Davidson PM
during celebrations commemorating his 50 year membership in
Roseville Lodge #222.**

He has also faithfully served this Lodge as Secretary for the last 41 years.

The first efforts to establish a Masonic Lodge at Rocklin, Placer County, was in the summer of 1870, when Grand Master Leonidas E. Pratt granted a dispensation July 30th, to Brethren, which was known as Rocklin Lodge, U. D., with the following officers and members: PATRICK J. KILDAY, W. M.; JAMES KING, S.W.; CORNELIUS COLLINS, J.W.; JOHN P. McDONALD, TREASURER; BENJAMIN F. SMITH; SEC.; SAMUEL TROTT, S.D.; HARPER M. SHEPARD, J.D.; JOHN FREEMAN, TYLER. MASTER MASONS: George Bailey, James Hanley, Aaron Harrison, John T. Kinkade, Joseph A. Lindsay, William F. Schultze, Arthur B. Shearer, Josiah Starriett, Albert C. Walterspiel.

At the twenty second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, October 14, 1871, the dispensation was ordered to be continued. At the twenty-third Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in October 1872 Rocklin Lodge made returns of the same officers, with the exception of the Junior Deacon, Bro. Harper M. Shepard, and Bros. Albert C. Walterspiel and Arthur B. Shearer, who had withdrawn. Bros. Clark R. Blackner, Alonzo W. Cooley, John Hamilton, Nathaniel S. Page, William D. Perkins, Albert H. Schietze, John Sweeney, Master Masons, and Aaron Craner and Joseph Echerich, Entered Apprentices, had been added to the roll. The Committee on Dispensations and Charters reported on October 14, 1871, "For reasons not upon the record, your Committee are of the opinion that Rocklin Lodge should be discontinued," and offered the following resolution: "Resolved, That Rocklin Lodge, at Rocklin in Placer County, be declared extinct, and that the Grand Secretary be and is hereby directed to take charge of and settle its affairs." W.: Bro. Orrin Hollenbeck, the Master of Eureka Lodge at Auburn, in Placer County, was directed to settle up its affairs. But there were eleven out of the twenty-one of the Master Masons of Rocklin Lodge U.D., who were zealous in the cause, and made application to the Grand Master, Leonidas E. Pratt, for a dispensation for a new Lodge, which was granted to them on July 24, and at the twenty-third Annual Communication of Grand Lodge October 14, 1872, they were granted a charter.

Institution ceremonies were held on October 19, 1872. The name and number of the new lodge was Granite Lodge #222, a very appropriate name because of the various granite quarries then in operation in Rocklin. The first election of officers was held on July 29, 1872 and the first Worshipful Master was Brother John Thompson Kinkade, who served four terms as Master. At the time, he was an elected official of Placer County, the Superintendent of Schools. He was born in Virginia, and his grandmother was first cousin to the Honorable Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States (1849-1850).

Other officers were J. A. Lindsay, Senior warden, and Aaron Harrison, Junior Warden. William F. Schuetze, Treas.; John Sweeney, Sec.; Samuel Trott, S.D.; Albert H. Schuetze, J.D.; Nathan S. Page, Marshal; George Bailey, James Hanley, Stewards; Benjamin F. Smith, Tyler. In 1877 the roster quotes Brother A.H. Schuetze as Secretary. The lodge met in the Trott's Hall, a small hall located above a grocery store, in Rocklin. Today it is the Bottomley Grocery. Seeking a better and larger meeting place, the lodge, with the Levison brothers, entered into a building plan whereby the Levisons would occupy the ground floor, and the lodge the upper floor. It was to be constructed of brick, each party to assume the cost of their respective portion, with the Levisons also assuming the cost of the roof. The cost for the materials for the lodge amounted to \$4,600.00, but the labor of laying the brick was by the brethren. The lot was purchased from Lewis V. Curl, a member of the lodge. The building was located on Railroad Street in Rocklin, and measured some thirty by seventy feet. Tenants of the lodge room were the Heber Chapter of the Eastern Star, and Rocklin Lodge of Oddfellows. The temple was completed and dedication ceremonies were held on August 2, 1882.

During the tenure of Granite Lodge #222 of Rocklin, there were 193 candidates raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The last and 193rd candidate was the late Peter G. Jacobs, on June 26, 1915. He was the local school principal of Rocklin. When the railroad moved to Roseville, many railroad employees, who were members, also moved to Roseville. Granite Lodge activities decreased, as did the attendance. On May 29, 1919, Granite Lodge #222 consolidated with Roseville Lodge #432. With this consolidation, Roseville Lodge was granted permission from the Grand Lodge to take over the number 222, and return their old number, 432, to the Grand Lodge.

Brother Ralph R. Stafford, a charter member of Granite Lodge, was admitted to the Masonic Home at Decoto, where he passed away November 26, 1926 at age 77.

In the early 1930's the old two-story lodge temple at Rocklin was sold to Wm L. Bartley, a Southern Pacific engineer of Roseville who tore the building down and used the old bricks in the construction of his home at 406 King Road in Roseville. In 1945 Brother Ted Huskinson bought the home and rummaging through some discarded building materials sometime ago found the marble name plate of Rocklin Granite Lodge. He

subsequently donated the plaque to Roseville Lodge #222 where it is now displayed in the lobby at the bottom of the stairs.

In the issue of November 26, 1908, the Roseville Register quotes that several Masonic brethren residing in Roseville, were holding meetings for the purpose of obtaining a lodge of masons in Roseville. The Grand Lodge was petitioned for a charter in 1912, and it was granted on July 5, 1912, the name and number to be Roseville Lodge #432. They held an election of officers and those elected were James Scott, Worshipful Master; Lew Barrett, Senior Warden; Clarence Peck, Junior Warden W. Lester, Senior Deacon; S. York, Junior Deacon; W. G. Osborn, Treasures; and Jerry E. Stine, Secretary. The lodge held their institution ceremonies on October 25, 1912.

Between the years of 1906 and 1908 when the railroad moved from Rocklin to Roseville, it seems everyone wanted to move to Roseville also. Consequently on May 29, 1919 Granite Lodge #222 consolidated with Roseville Lodge #432. An exchange of numbers was granted; hence from that date it was to be Roseville Lodge #222.

The first annual roll call of Roseville Lodge #222 was held on May 29, 1920 preceded by a dinner. Roseville Lodge held their meetings in the Oddfellows Hall on Pacific Street in Roseville, but along in the early 20's they were formulating plans for a new Temple. Two lots were purchased at the corner of Vernon and Washington Streets, and on October 16, 1923 Roseville Masonic Temple Association was incorporated for \$100,000.00. Their first officers were C U. Clemons, President; Walter Hanisch, Vice president; Tom H. Boswell, Secretary; and Guy T. Gibson, Treasures. Financial arrangements were made in the form of a bank loan, as well as the issuance of approximately 500 shares of Temple stock at \$ 100.00 each. After the funds were secured, the association awarded the contract for construction of the two-story cement building---ground floor to be for commercial purposes, and the upper floor for lodge functions. The cornerstone was laid on October 3, 1925, and the Temple was completed in April 1926. The Lodge held its first meeting in the new Temple on April 19, 1926, it being a third degree and the honored candidate being Joseph H. Fleming. The dedication ceremonies were held on May 1, 1926.

In the year 1944 the balance of the bank loan was paid off and in the years to follow small amounts of stock have been recalled and paid off at irregular intervals. In the early 70's numerous brethren felt that a concerted effort should be made to pay off all the still outstanding shares of stock and make the building free and clear of all debts. In 1976, under the watchful guidance of Brother Ben Wagner, Worshipful Master, the dues were raised, thereby making more monies available to retire and pay off the last 155 shares of still outstanding Temple stock. The successful conclusion of this effort was duly celebrated on September 8, 1979 with Worshipful Brother J. William Kirkpatrick Master, presiding. There were 63 members as well as 30 visitors in attendance. Among the notables on the guest list were the Most Worshipful Don G. Ingalls, Grand Master and the Right Worshipful Vernon L. Gordon, Deputy Grand Master.

On August 7, 1972 Roseville #222 celebrated its Centennial under James Forristall, Worshipful Master, Dan Hynie, Senior Warden; Werner Schoenhoff, Junior Warden; Ken Harris, Treasurer and Ken Davidson, Secretary. A cadre of Grand Lodge Officers with the Most Worshipful Lester S. McElwain, Grand Master of Mason in California and Hawaii presiding participated in the formal festivities.

Brother Joe Di Sano, who was born in 1893, was the oldest and last surviving member of Granite Lodge for many years. He passed to the Celestial Lodge on December 23, 1983.

For many years Roseville Lodge and its members have enjoyed tranquility and prosperity with the membership peaking in 1985 when over 600 brothers were on the membership roll. However since then the membership has declined steadily to just over four hundred, much the same as is the trend in other lodges if not state wide.

Presently 1998/99 a major construction program is being completed in as much that an elevator, the dream of many function attendees for years, is being installed. This project together with the remodeling of all the bathrooms on the second floor and the offices on the ground floor was made possible through the very generous bequest of one of our departed brethren. Brother Harry Greer was a longtime member and regular and faithful attendee of many of the functions held at the temple. Those of us who knew him will surely miss him.

Roseville Masonic Temple is used daily by some of the following active organizations:

Roseville Lodge #222, F&AM
Heber Chapter #181, Order of the Eastern Star
Rose Chapter #292, Order of the Eastern Star
Daughters of the Nile, Roseville Council
Roseville Chapter #146, Royal Arch Masons
Roseville Council #54, Cryptic Masons
Rosewood Commandery #21, Knights Templar
Roseville DeReimer Assembly #263, Rainbow for Girls
Sierra Council #135, Allied Masonic Degrees
Arcade Council #273 (?), Allied Masonic Degrees
Roseville Council #362, Allied Masonic Degrees
Bethel #3, Job's Daughters

Former organizations:

Valley Rose Court, Order of the Amaranth
Bethel #39, Job's Daughters*
Bethel #336, Job's Daughters*
Roseville Chapter, Order of DeMolay**

* Consolidated 6/1/97 into Bethel #3
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February 26, 1999 The above has been researched, collected and assembled by Werner P. Schoenhoff, PM (1974). It gave me a great deal of pleasure to do this research. I am also indebted to Brother Hugo Hebeck, deceased, my lodge historian predecessor, who worked on an earlier version of Rsvl. #222 history. Some of the very early history of this lodge was gleaned from the Grand Lodge of California's "50 YEARS OF MASONRY IN CALIFORNIA", published by George Spalding & Co., in 1898 a copy of which I was able to purchase in 1997. Some of the events were told in personal interviews and some were from my own recollection.