

# History of Willcox Lodge #10 Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona Willcox, Arizona



## Diamond-Anniversary Celebration November 19, 1966

In our Lodge, Willcox #10, we have not had as members anyone named Will Rogers, Harry Truman, Ben Franklin or Paul Revere. But we have had members who were just as interesting, just as diligent in their masonry.

With the settling of the Sulphur Springs Valley, came the Brethren, searching for sustenance--much as the cattle of this valley came searching for a waterhole--as the miners came searching for a mountain, with ore abundant--as the farmer came searching for a land upon which he might raise his crops, and his family.

They came as Brothers, seeking brotherhood, and the everlasting ties of Masonry--and they found the ties here perhaps even stronger--in this harsh and hostile country of the 1890's.

From San Francisco came George Washington Baker; Mark Allen also came from California; Brannick Riggs and Samuel Smith Rogers came from Texas; Nathan Lewis Guthrie and James William Baker migrated from Flagstaff; Thomas Steele from Prescott; Andrew Thomas Wisdom from nearby Deming, New Mexico and Amin Allen Frazer from far away Covington, Kentucky. They were the founders and charter members of this Lodge. These men served as the foundation for the Lodge that was to be organized and tied the mystic knot with the rawhide of the cattle country.

Of those mentioned, James William Baker became the first ramrod and Worshipful Master while Edgar Adelbert Nichols became the first Senior Warden, and was Master several times in the next few difficult years. Nichols and George Henry Stratton, who became the first Junior Warden, were not charter members, but received their degrees while the Lodge number ten was under dispensation from the Grand Lodge.

Preliminary organizational meeting for Willcox Lodge #10 was held at the Justice of the Peace Office in Willcox in the evening of January 20, 1891. Temporary officers were chosen for "Willcox Lodge" and a petition was prepared to be sent to the Grand Master praying the granting of a Dispensation.

The second preliminary meeting was held the following May 6th and was attended by the Grand Master George W. Cheyney who accepted the Petition, dimits, recommendations and certificates of qualifications for the issuance of a Dispensation for the establishment of the proposed Lodge. Necessary funds, one hundred and fifty dollars, were raised by four Brothers signing a note for that amount.

The Dispensation to Willcox Lodge #10, F. & A.M. dates as follows:

"Given under my hand and the seal of our Grand Lodge of Arizona, this 20th day of May, A.L. 5891, A.D. 1891." This signed by Grand Master Cheyney and attested by Grand Secretary George J. Roskruge.

June 1, 1891 marked the first meeting under Dispensation with Grand Master George W. Cheyney having called the meeting to grant the Dispensation. Immediately thereafter, the following Brethren took their places and stations: Nathan L. Guthrie, Worshipful Master; James W. Baker, Senior Warden; Samuel S. Rogers, Junior Warden; Brannick Riggs, Treasurer; George W. Baker, Secretary; Edward R. Monk, Senior Deacon; Andrew T. Wisdom, Junior Deacon; Benjamin A. Frazer, Jackson P. Richardson, Stewards, and Thomas Steele, Tyler.

At the October 7th meeting a petition was prepared to be presented to the next Grand Lodge meeting, requesting that a Charter be granted to Willcox Lodge #10 and recommendations were made for officers. Brother William Francis Nichols was chosen as Delegate to represent the Lodge.

The Charter was forthcoming, issued by the Grand Lodge meeting in Tucson, Arizona on November 11, 1891, authorizing a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons designated as Willcox Lodge #10. The Charter authorized Worshipful Master James William Baker, Senior Warden Edgar A. Nichols and George H. Stratton, Junior Warden--along with the Brethren--to carry on Masonic activity.

The first meeting under Charter was convened November 13, 1891 and the Past Grand Master George W. Cheyney presided with P.M. David Cohn as acting Senior Grand Warden; James W. Baker acted as Junior Grand Warden; George W. Baker acted as Grand Secretary and T.B. Chattman acted as Grand Marshal. The Lodge of Willcox #10 was then constituted and dedicated and the first regular officers of the Lodge were installed.

In addition to the aforementioned officers, George W. Baker was the first Secretary; William F. Nichols, Senior Deacon; Andrew T. Wisdom, Junior Deacon; and Thomas B. Chattman was first Tyler.

With little money and but a few members--and no place to call a Lodge home--these pioneer Masons began the degree work for friends and

neighbors who knocked at their door asking for guidance and light.

"Dedicated" seems to be a fitting word for those who amidst the perils and inconveniences of the early 1890's found time and energy to form this Lodge dedicated of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

By 1900 the membership grew to approximately forty with many of these dedicated members becoming Scottish Rite and York Rite Masons.

One such member was a well-known and long-remembered Brother who must have done much to hold the Lodge together during trying times. He was Kaspar Hauser. Brother Hauser served as the Master of the Willcox Lodge #10 for six of the first ten years of the new century--and was honored by not a few...(In spite of the fact that many Masons were serving their country) on April 21, 1942, for his completion of 50 years of faithful work in his Lodge. At this time he was 90 years old.

Then Master Wallace Lundquist presented him with his 50-year pin. Hauser also served as local postmaster from 1903 to 1914, "...when the Democrats put me out of business..." he humorously said.

Since Kaspar Hauser, we have had several Masons in our Lodge with 50 years of devoted labor--and more! Willcox Lodge #10 has been blessed with its share of a number of high-caliber Brothers and among them two Grand Masters of the State of Arizona, namely, William Francis Nichols and Henry Alfred Morgan.

After moving from "pillow to post" for a number of years, a committee of five was appointed in February, 1916 to investigate the feasibility of a Masonic Temple. Masons were then meeting in the Navajo Hotel building. There was little help from the Grand Lodge at that time, apparently because "Morris Goldwater controlled the money", chuckles old-timer Frank Wootan.

Nevertheless, the plans were made and the contract was let by December of 1916. The contract was with W.F. McClure to build a "modern brick building, faced with white pressed brick (to signify Fraternal Friendship and Helpfulness) with plate glass fronts with modern plumbing". The interior was to be made of plaster and natural wood with the upper story for the Lodge work. This story was to house the Lodge room, banquet room, kitchen, three ante rooms and storage rooms. The building was scheduled to be completed by April 1, 1917, and was to cost \$8,400. By the time it was actually finished, it had cost closer to \$12,000.

And now, one day less than 26 years had passed since those hardies on January 20, 1891 had taken preliminary steps to request a Dispensation for Willcox Lodge #10--January, 1917--the cornerstone was to be laid.

Marshal J.W. Ditmars directed a procession to the site. Chaplain E.H. Nicholson invoked the blessing, Grand Master H.A. Morgan conducted ceremonies with the assistance of Master J.C. Wilson. Others participating in the ceremony were Frank Wootan, Frank Rottman, J.W. Angle and Kasper Hauser.

The principal architect, J.F. McClure, distributed the working tools, spread the cement and the stone was put into place, squared, leveled and plumbed and the work pronounced by the Grand Master as having been well and skillfully performed.

With the Masonic Temple completed, it was time to concentrate on increased activity and work in the Lodge. In September of 1917, the first Master Mason degree in the new Temple was bestowed upon Mark Allen Cook.

During that summer it had been decided that the Lodge would pay off indebtedness accrued in building the new Lodge at \$25.00 per month. Sixteen dollars of this amount was to come from rental of the hall to the City Council for its meetings.

According to the records of June 9, 1917, the Lodge purchased an electric motor "Jones System" for lighting the new Hall. The increase in the number of the Board of Trustees from three to five indicated that 1917 was truly a great year for Willcox Lodge #10.

November 14, 1941, the Golden Anniversary of the Willcox Lodge was celebrated in the Temple, with a banquet of turkey and entertainment by a ladies group calling themselves the "American Legion Auxiliary Trio". Worshipful Master Dana T. Milner held a short informal meeting honoring the founders and charter members and their farsightedness--having received their Charter on November 11, 1891.

Willcox Lodge #10 has had no Thomas Jeffersons, no Andrew Jacksons, no Franklin D. Roosevelts and no George Washingtons, but as we celebrate the Seventy-fifth Anniversary on November 19, 1966 of the chartering of this Lodge, it is evident that the same spirit of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, which was present with those exemplary Masons, is here with us now.

Compiled by  
Wayman H. Hopkins

# Diamond Anniversary Program



Commemorating The Chartering  
on November 11, 1891  
OF  
Willcox Lodge No. 10, F. & A. M.  
Willcox, Arizona

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DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE  
WHOSE EFFORTS HAVE MADE THIS  
ANNIVERSARY POSSIBLE

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WILLCOX, ARIZONA  
NOVEMBER 19, 1966

Willcox Lodge No. 210  
**FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ARIZONA**

**OFFICERS 1966**

Lyman M. Jensen.....	Worshipful Master
Elrid B. Howard.....	Senior Warden
Floyd R. Bethel.....	Junior Warden
Geo. V. Grosh Sr. P.M.....	Treasurer
Harry O. Hubbell.....	Secretary
Leon R. Hanson.....	Chaplain
Howard D. Bethel.....	Senior Deacon
Robert W. Ward.....	Junior Deacon
Major Lee McCanne.....	Senior Stewart
Ed Swanson.....	Junior Stewart
Wm. F. Van Wattering.....	Tyler
James L. Hanson.....	Marshall

Robert R. Giles, P.M.....	Trustee 1966
Robert B. Larned, P.M.....	Trustee 1967
Daniel G. Anderson, P.M.....	Trustee 1968
Carmy G. Page, P.M.....	Trustee 1969

Wayman Hopkins..... Lodge Historian

**COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS  
DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY**

Milon G. Miskovich, P.M.....	Chairman
George V. Grosh Sr. P.M.....	Member
Daniel G. Anderson, P.M.....	Member
Carmy G. Page, P.M.....	Member
Lyman M. Jensen.....	Member
Elrid B. Howard.....	Member
Rex Emrick.....	Member

# Diamond Anniversary Banquet

## PROGRAM

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.....

Led by Bro. Rex Emrick

Invocation.....

## DINNER

Introduction of Officers of Willcox Lodge #10 F&AM .....

Bro. Rex Emrick

Address of Welcome.....

W. Bro. Lyman M. Jensen, Master

Introduction of Grand Lodge Officers & Past Grand Masters..

Bro. Daniel G. Anderson P.M.

Presentation of 50-Year Button to John C. Gung'l P.M. and to  
Bro. Ralph G. Lewis.....

M. W. Bro. Richard Lopshire Past Grand Master

Introduction of Speaker.....

Bro. Daniel G. Anderson P.M.

## ADDRESS

Most Worshipful S. Barry Casey, Grand Master

Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona

Member of Silver Trowel Lodge #29 F. & A. M.

Phoenix, Arizona

Benediction.....

Theador Teimer Jr. P.M.

## DINNER MENU

Tomato Juice

Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus

Baked Potato with Sour Cream

Buttered Green Beans

Salad with French Dressing

Hot Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Iced Tea

Cake

PAST MASTERS OF WILLCOX LODGE # 10, F. & A. M.

* Nathan L. Guthrie	1891		
* James W. Baker	1892		
* E. A. Nichols	1893-97-98-99		
* M. J. Soto	1894-1900-05		
* W. F. Nichols	1895-96		
* Kasper Hauser	1901-02-04-08-09-10		
* Henry A. Morgan	1903		
* W. A. Fiege	1906		
* J. N. Lean	1907		
** B. J. McKinney	1911		
* J. C. Wilson	1912-17-22		
* J. W. Angle	1913		
* H. L. McCoy	1914		
* A. B. Marchman	1915		
* Lem Wallace	1916		
** J. F. Wootan	1918		
* Frank Rottman	1919-21		
** John C. Gung'l	1920		
* W. M. Bouck	1923	Mike M. Bennett	1946
* J. F. Cummings	1924	R. R. Giles	1947
* M.. J. Nicholson	1925-26	* Jess LaPrade	1948
* J. N. Brookbank	1927	* Porter Fox	1949
Charles A. Smith	1928	Carlton P. Gordon	1950-51
E. B. McAleb	1929-37	Leonard Rottman	1952
Charles E. Reno	1930	* D. L. Crismon	1953
* V. F. Swanner	1931	Malcolm M. Giles	1954-57
* L. J. Fulmer	1932	Lester F. Bethel	1955
Walter T. Linam	1933	Haynes Moore	1956
Martin Gentry	1934	Lynn H. Camp	1958
* J. P. Cummings	1935	Vernon Spurgeon	1959
Elbert B. Moss	1936	Allan O. Ringnell	1960
* Edwin I. Tout	1938	Milon G. Miskovich	1961
* Dana T. Milner	1939-41	Robert B. Larned	1962
* R. R. Nelson	1940	Theodor Teimer, Jr.	1963
Wallace Lundquist	1942	Daniel G. Anderson	1964
Thomas J. Higgins	1943	Carmy G. Page	1965
* Ben White	1944	Lyman M. Jensen	1966
George V. Grosh	1945		

\* Deceased

\*\* 50 Years