

Area L.O.L. Lodges

In March of this year the Holstein and Letter Breen Loyal Orange Lodges amalgamated and the Letter Breen hall on No. 6 Highway north of town has been sold to John Gerber of town.

The Confederare is indebted to Mrs. Clarence Daly who prepared the following history of the Loyal Orange Lodge. No. 607, Norranby, whose warrant was issued in October, 1885. Parts of the minutes have been used by Mrs. Daly.

The hall was situated on the second farm north of Letter Breen church and the meetings were held on the first Monday of each month, to open on time at 7.00 in the winter months and 8.00 in the summer months.

The first minutes recorded were December 1, 1856 and the first Worshipful Master was Thomas Wright and Robert

Black, the Recording Secretary.

A special meeting was soon held to form a district with Mount Forest.

William Ryan was the first District Master. At each meeting there were always applications from new members.

The first financial record we have was on April 8, 1856, where Hiram Hilts paid 5 Shillings for the Royal Arch. This leads us to believe there were many meetings of which we have no record. The Initiation and Arch Degree were 5 shillings, Little Purple 2 shillings six pence, Royal Blue 3 shillings nine pence. The lodge carried on with these moneys until 1863 when they changed to dollars and cents. The dues then were 50¢ half yearly a note made of arrears at that date were

from \$6.41 1/2 down to .74 1/2¢.

In the minutes of December 3, 1867, the price of .50¢ was paid for making and hanging an outside door; 384 feet lumber \$2.84; lamp wick, pen and ink 7¢; paid \$6.60 for dinners. By all accounts it appears as though the dinners for the 12th of July were paid for out of lodge funds. In June, 1870, it was moved to meet at the lodge room at 5.30 a.m. July 12; August 1872 County and Grand Lodge, dues \$4.50; ink and ribbon .25¢; 12th of July dinners, \$9.50; whisky and earables .85¢.

On April 5, 1875, moved by Bentley and Nolan that regular meeting night be changed to the Thursday on or before the full of the moon. For over 80 years that was the night until a few years ago it was changed to the third Thursday in each month. In 1878 dues were reduced from 12 1/2 cents to 5¢ a month. Receipts for that evening were 10¢.

In 1880 a half cord of wood 37 1/2 cents; in 1882 paid grandmother for 2 pounds butter and 1 pound sugar 40¢. no mention of grandmother's name. In December 1885, 3 yards each orange purple and blue ribbon, total 30¢; cash from one meeting, 5¢; also that year the fife for the twelfth of July was to receive \$3, providing he played the fife all day.

In those days summonses were issued for non-attendance and a penalty of 3¢.

In July, 1886, moved that the lodge would go to Palmer-

ston by train for the 12th, meet at lodge room at 5.00 a.m., walk to Mount Forest return from Mount Forest to lodge at 5.00 p.m. Charlie McFarlin was given 25¢ for carrying the colors.

In 1889 paid William Stevenson \$2.10 for 7 bunches of shingles at 30¢ a bunch and received from Smith Seaman 2¢ amount of account in full to date. William Cowan was paid \$2.65 for shingles and nails and a lamp glass 8¢. pay was refunded as charity to an old blind brother. Lodge was to meet at 10 1/2 o'clock a.m. for the 12th of July.

In 1890, March 6, William Stevenson and J.R. Shields attended a meeting at R. Elder's to discuss matters on starting a new Lodge or uniting providing it would be satisfactory to all members and that their stuff in their hall was as valuable as ours and when that much money came in we would build a new hall providing grounds could be got to suit all members.

In March, 1894, a committee was formed to start a new hall. It was not until 1895 that it was moved to build the hall that year. Each member to give 2 days' work or pay in \$1.50, also that no materials be paid for until laid down on the grounds. It was decided to build on Rozell's Gore. Joe Williamson was to board the masons at 12 1/2 cents per meal per man. The hall was to have two doors one front and back. Material from the old hall was to be used. The members lathed the hall themselves.

In 1895, 12th of July in Harriston, Stewart Stevenson offered to draw the colors to Mount Forest if the lodge would buy the feed for his horses. Joe Williamson to drum for the day for \$1. and Mr. Horsburgh to play fife all day and to be exempted from lathing the hall for a day.

The first meeting was held in the new hall on July 12.



Members of L.O.L. 607 ~ circa 1915

Seated from left to right are Albert Ovens, Valentine Eurig, George McFarlin and John R. Anderson. Standing from left to right are Jack Ryan, Fred Holliday and Bill Stevenson. The L.O.L. 607 was three miles north of Mount Forest on highway 6.

Photo courtesy of Jean Holliday & Anne MacDonald