

135th Anniversary – Pioneer Lodge No. 70 F. & A.M. October 14, 2000

*On this auspicious occasion
In the history of Pioneer
We extend a hearty greeting
And to all a welcome sincere.
May you long remember this evening
Though many more there will be
And cherish only happy memories
Of this our 135th Anniversary.*

Fraternally,
Pioneer Lodge No. 70 F. & A.M.

135th Anniversary Committee

Daniel J. Schultz, P.M., Chairman
Norman L. Lehmann, P.G.C.
Claude Geller, P.M.
Richard Willoughby, S.D.
Rudolph D. Anzalone, P.D.D.G.M. (Entertainment)

Highlights of the history of Pioneer Lodge

- The "Associated Brethren of New Barbados" were granted a warrant and Union Lodge #6, often referred to as Hackensack Lodge, was formed.
- A charter was granted to Union Lodge #6 on December 20, 1787
- On July 3, 1794 Union Lodge #6 failed to attend Grand Lodge for several years and was stricken from the roll of lodges.
- Over the next 60 years, attempts had been made by members of the Fraternity residing in Hackensack to form a Masonic Lodge.
- During 1864 a few Freemasons again took up the subject of a Lodge and in February 1865, meeting at Dr. W.H. Hall's Drug Store, N.W. corner Main and Passaic, prepared a petition to the Grand Master for a dispensation. These Brethren traveled by horse and buggy to Passaic, N.J., where Passaic Lodge #67 endorsed the petition in accordance with Grand Lodge regulations.
- A dispensation was granted by M.W. William Silas Whitehead, M.W.G.M. on the evening of April 4, 1865 at which time Pioneer Lodge (the first Masonic Lodge in Bergen County) under dispensation was opened in Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street, and charter member William H. DeWolf was empowered Master.
- The first member raised was Theophilus Bolton on June 6, 1865, and was immediately made Tyler.
- There were 31 meetings held while the Lodge was under dispensation, 31 members were initiated, 7 admitted by demit and on February 12, 1866, the Lodge had 38 members.

- On February 12, 1866 at 8 P.M. the first regular communication, under warrant, of Pioneer Lodge No. 70 was held in Anderson Hall at which time William DeWolf was installed Master.
- On January 11, 1876 the brethren from Closter occupied the chairs, exemplified the work and were given permission to make application for dispensation and warrant as Alpine Lodge #77.
- Reference was made several times to the need for stove wood, and members took turns bringing wood to the Lodge room when heat was needed.
- The 100th communication was held August 25, 1868 and the by-laws were amended to provide a salary for the secretary of 50 cents for each meeting attended.
- At the 142nd communication there appears the first purchase of "collars" for the Master and Wardens.
- The first reported Masonic funeral was held at the graveside for Bro. David L. Van Saun July 6, 1869
- The 193rd communication Bro. Peter Rodgers of Corinthian Lodge #188, N.Y.C., and several Masons of various Lodges, including Pioneer, were present to exemplify the work in preparation of a petition to form a Lodge in Englewood, Tuscan #115.
- March 19, 1872, a letter received from Trenton #5 advising that Alpha Lodge #116 was admitting Negro Men.
- The 329th communication, Pioneer was so bad financially, that members were being requested by pay their dues years in advance.
- At the communication, December 21, 1891, dissatisfaction with our meeting place was expressed and trustees instructed to cause our rooms to be made safe or find another place to meet.
- June 5, 1895, the by-laws were amended to change meeting night from first and third Wednesdays, to first and third Fridays.
- At the 718th communication, the 100th member was initiated.
- At the 919th communication a petition received from Henry Kent Hewitt, age 21, who later became Admiral Hewitt who performed extraordinary Navel Service in W.W. I I.
- At the 955th communication April 15, 1910, demits were granted to 28 members seeking dispensation to form Mosaic Lodge #194 in Ridgefield Park.
- At the 1052nd communication March 5, 1915, the Lodge appropriated \$200.00 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary on April 2, 1915.
- An emergency communication was held on April 6, 1918 for the purpose of attending funeral services and giving last rites to W.B. William DeWolf, first Master and last Charter member.
- 1918 was a busy year with many communications to confer degrees on soldiers passing through on the way to serve in Europe.
- At the 1139th communication a resolution was adopted authorizing the purchase of the Methodist Church building for the sum not exceeding \$9,200.00.
- At the 1141st communication June 6, 1919, the Methodist Church authorized their trustees to sell the church building at State and Warren Streets. At that

meeting a motion was also adopted to buy an organ for the Temple to cost no more than \$2,500.00.

- The 1153rd communication February 6, 1920 was the last meeting prior to moving to our new home at State and Warren Streets
- At the January 28, 1921 meeting the 500th member C.S. Conklin was raised.
- At the 1214th communication \$400.00 was voted to furnish a room at Hackensack Hospital.
- Pioneer Masonic Club in April 1922 voted to make visits to Bergen County Hospital. This was an annual pilgrimage. Pioneer members donated over 1,000 pine trees, around the hospital. Pioneer also helped rename the hospital Bergen Pines.
- At the 1218th communication \$250 donated to furnish a room at the Masonic Home.
- On November 24th Roosevelt Chapter, Order of DeMolay was instituted.
- On June 11, 1925, a delegation of Masons from Hasbrouck Heights sought the right to exemplify the work and qualify for dispensation, and Corona Lodge began.
- On December 18, 1925 there were 746 members - \$21,820.00 in treasury.
- At the 1500 communication June 4, 1937, Historian John E. Clark, beginning with a brief story on Union Lodge #6 reviewed the history of the Lodge.
- May 3, 1940 the 75th anniversary of the Lodge was celebrated – 600 attended.
- April 16, 1948 a special committee reported detailed recommendations for changing ownership of Temple property from Trustees to Pioneer Masonic Association.
- December 4, 1953, the Association acquired additional property to increase the facilities of the temple. Amount approximately \$14,000.
- In 1965-1966 the Centennial Celebration took place. Rudy Anzalone, the Worshipful Master in 1965 and Sal Anzalone, Worshipful Master in 1966 held many special occasions. First an evening service in the Old Church on the Green. Second Program, May 7, 1965, W.M. Rudy Anzalone accepted a gift of a new bible for the Altar from the Past Masters of Pioneer, and placing the 100-year-old bible in the archives. The third program was held in Tammy Brook Country Club, November 6, 1965. The occasion was shared with families and friends. 651 in attendance. The following year the W.M. Sal Anzalone continued the anniversary with a reception for the Grand Master on Friday, April 1, 1966.
- September 29, 1967, a reception held for R.W. Joseph Robertson D.D.G.M. 25th. District
- June 15, 1974, a Public Service bus struck the front entrance of Pioneer Temple.
- September 5, 1974, funeral services were held in Pioneer Lodge for R.W. William S. Davis, senior Past Master and former historian.
- April 1975, Egon Kaufmann appointed Senior Grand Steward.
- January 6, 1978, Lodge alerted to possible loss of building due to widening Warren Street. This was later cancelled.
- April 1978, Kenneth Martell, appointed Grand Organist.

- June 2, 1978, the lodge was notified they would receive a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of Albert DelMar.
- September 7, 1979, plans were projected for renovation of the Temple. A new rug, organ, refurbishing of the exterior, new floor in collation room, sealing of unnecessary windows, refurbishing of kitchen, etc.
- Grand Master Edward Woods in October 1983 dedicated a bloodmobile donated by Pioneer Lodge to the Bergen Community Blood Center. Official visit of Grand Master for reception of R.W. Rudolph D. Anzalone D.D.G.M. of the 25th District.
- In 1983 the latticework in the south former steeple tower was replaced by 3 foot round acrylic Masonic emblems. At night a light shines to display them. This was dedicated to Robert Baird, P.M. by his Masonic friends.
- In September 1984, Bro. Frank C. Evans donated a six foot high Square, compass and letters spelling out Pioneer Lodge #70 F. & A.M. mounted on the back of the Temple.
- January 18, 1985, reception honoring Marshal F. Wyman, Grand Chaplain.
- For the 200th Anniversary of Grand Lodge (1786-1986), Pioneer Lodge celebrated with a collation and parade to the Church on the Green. The Grand Master M.W. William Sackett and his staff and other Masonic bodies attended with a Masonic Sermon by Rev. Br. Jay McIntoch.
- September 19, 1986, reception for R.W. Norman L. Lehmann, Grand Chaplain.
- April 1988, Sal Anzalone appointed Grand Historian.
- Carl Anzalone, served as Worshipful Master for our 125th Anniversary year 1990. The Lodge started the commemoration with a church service at the Second Reformed Church. In May a new Altar cloth was dedicated to our Worshipful Master and to the memory of our deceased brothers.
- On October 13, 1990, a sumptuous dinner was held at the Fiesta Restaurant, with dancing, and entertainment by the Tani Tahara Hawaiian Review. Over 130 in attendance.
- During the three-hour Hackensack Dessert Storm welcome-home parade on June 30, 1991, Pioneer Lodge members and officers, along with the Grand Master and his staff, and other civic and Masonic organizations, marched along Main Street. Collation followed at the Lodge.
- In 1993, R.W. Mark Anzalone was appointed Grand Chaplain.
- Each year Pioneer participates, along with other civic organizations, at the Veterans' Day ceremonies in Hackensack with the laying of a wreath,
- In 1995, Gary R. Kuhles was appointed District Ritual Instructor for the Third Masonic District, having completed five years as District Ritual Instructor this past Spring, giving him the title of Right Worshipful.
- Michael G. Blischak serves as Worshipful Master for the 135th Anniversary year, and on October 14, 2000, a celebration is held in Del Mar Hall at Pioneer Lodge with a hot and cold buffet being served and entertainment by Mark Viselli, an outstanding impressionist.