

BLAZING STAR LODGE, No. 11
Concord, N. H.

Blazing Star Lodge # 11 was granted a charter by the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire on February 13, 1799. The lodge was constituted, consecrated, and its officers installed on the 6th of May following, with Daniel Warner as master, David McCrillis and Benjamin Gale, senior and junior wardens respectively, and Isaac de La Mather secretary.

The early meetings were held in Union Hall at the Inn of Benjamin Gale. This was on the site of the present Concord National Bank. In 1808 the lodge voted to build a hall over what was then the Concord Bank at 49 No. Main St., where it remained until 1857.

Having outgrown its quarters the lodge built a hall on the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, which contained, as well, the apartments of the various Masonic bodies, and also the Grand Lodge offices and library. In the cornerstone of this building was a metal box in which were deposited printed copies of Masonic proceedings, proceedings of various religious bodies, newspapers of the city, code of 'Blue Laws', and various coins of ancient date, etc. The new apartments were dedicated in January 1859 and served as headquarters for Blazing Star Lodge until it moved to its present location at 44 So. Main Street in 1926.

The hall at Main and Pleasant Streets was destroyed by fire in 1962, but from the ashes the cornerstone with its metal box was recovered, and the contents are now stored in the archives of the lodge.

Blazing Star Lodge has continued to grow throughout the years until it now has a membership of almost 500. In 1949 it celebrated its 150th anniversary and is now looking forward to its bicentennial in 1999.

In recent years two of its most distinguished brethren have been selected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons, State of New Hampshire: the late Walter E. Dunlap 1953, and our present Most Worshipful Grand Master Herbert E. Kimball who was installed May 15 of this present year 1965. There are also three other brethren of Blazing Star Lodge in the present Grand Officer's suite. Into the hands of men such as these we commit our trust, knowing full well that they will continue to manifest their fidelity to our great Masonic Fraternity and to Blazing Star Lodge, No. 11, F. and A. M.

Prepared by
the Historical Committee

Melvin W. Chase

Lorne F. Lea

Worshipful Master

Fletcher W. Ryley

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Winfield Phillips