

1809
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

We find that on November 12, 1816, the Lodge was ordered summoned for December 27th to "see if Lodge shall or shall not be moved." Still, the only action taken at that summoned communication as shown by the minutes, was the adoption of a recommendation "That we build a Lodgeroom at the School House," which was located about 50 rods west of Reynolds' tavern, and a Committee was appointed to secure proposals. One year later, December 30, 1817, a ballot was held on removal to Saratoga Springs, resulting eleven in favor and twenty-two against. On December 8, 1818, on motion, the Lodge was moved to Stephen King's tavern, about half-way to Saratoga Springs, probably in the hope of stopping what would appear to be the natural trend of things. At this tavern the Lodge appears to have remained until final removal to Saratoga Springs.

On July 10, 1821, a Committee of five, viz: Seth Perry, Cornelius J. Swartwout, Arthur Devlin, George W. Fish and Eli Stiles was appointed to confer with the Brethren at Saratoga Springs, and, on motion, it was ordered that the Lodge be so moved "provided the Committee could agree with the Brethren at Saratoga Springs on the same, and

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RISING SUN LODGE, No. 103, F. & A. M.

if no satisfactory agreement can be made by said Committee, then this Lodge agrees to the surrender of their Charter to the Grand Lodge."

The first Master elected after the removal of the Lodge to Saratoga Springs was Esek Cowen, a rising young lawyer, who came to this village from Gansevoort's Mill in 1812, and who in 1808, at Mawney's tavern at Clark's Corners, was one of the founders of the first temperance society in the United States. He afterwards became, as is so well known, a very eminent Justice, as well as a legal author of great renown. W. .Brother Cowen succeeded M. .W. .Brother Reuben Hyde Walworth as Circuit Judge when the latter, at the early age of thirty-eight, was appointed Chancellor of the State of New York. W. .Brother Cowen's first visit to Rising Sun Lodge appears to have been on May 12, 1816. He affiliated with it and signed the By-Laws November 18, 1817. He was elected Treasurer of the Lodge December 4, 1821. He was a man of commanding presence, standing over six feet in height. Those of you who can recall his youngest son, Major Patrick Henry Cowen, of my old Regiment, the 115th New York Volunteers, can form a good idea of the figure and dignity of W. .Brother Cowen,