

1809  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

meet the agent of the Grand Lodge, and at which the brethren voted to sustain the Charter and pay up the dues to the Grand Lodge, but, remaining inactive for five years, the Charter was declared forfeited. A revival of the Charter took place the next year on the payment of \$6.00, and another effort was made, but the trials and difficulties were too great for the brethren. No report having, in the meantime, been made, the Charter was again forfeited in 1842. No records are known to exist for this period. In October, 1823, a new book of records was ordered, and a very good book it proved to be, but the two meetings held in 1830 are the last recorded therein, leaving more than half the book blank. The next book of records, in our hands, begins in 1844—Union Lodge under Dispensation.

During this trying time, good old St. John's, No. 22, of Greenfield, Saratoga County, being located amid the peaceful hills and away from the "Madding Crowd" was able to hold its Charter. The political party that had been formed during the Morgan frenzy, finally passed out of existence before 1840, and the beneficent character of Masonry began once more to be recognized. The brethren, in 1844, made another effort for restoration, but this

1909  
RISING SUN LODGE, No. 103, F. & A. M.

only resulted in a Dispensation under the name of Union Lodge. The petition was signed by eleven Master Masons—Daniel D. Benedict, Alvah D. Marvin, Joseph M. Wheeler, Gideon M. Davison, Asher S. Taylor, Eli Stiles, Gardner Bullard, Elijah Weeks, Stephen Seaman, John Cross and Robert McDonnell, most of whom were alive and known to me personally when a boy. The W. Master, Daniel D. Benedict, was a very handsome old man, with long bushy white hair, and he was a great credit to the Craft. The idea of changing the name of the Lodge seems to have met with great and determined opposition on the part of so many, that, in 1845, a petition signed by Daniel D. Benedict, W. A. Beach and John L. Perry, as committee, was presented to the Grand Lodge, as follows:

### THE PETITION

*"To the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York:*

*"The Petition of the undersigned, respectfully represents that on the 16th day of December A. L. 5844, a Dispensation was granted by our Most Worshipful Grand Master, organizing certain petitioners therein named into a regular Lodge of*