

1809  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

on July 5, 1808, while under dispensation, possibly a joint celebration of the Fourth of July and the establishment of the Lodge, together with the first *work* in the Second Degree, "50 pounds of Crackers, a whole Cheese and 8 gallons of Strong Beer" were paid for out of the Treasury, having been bought in Albany at a cost of \$16.00. Two years later two gallons of rum and one and one-half gallons of wine were paid for. Then a spasm of reform may have prevailed for six months later they got along with two gallons of cider. They got going again, however, for at a funeral they consumed five quarts of rum and three quarts of brandy, as a result of which, possibly, they had to pay 2s. (50 cents) for a broken tumbler.

November 10, 1818, we find recorded: "On proceeding to business we found the keys of the chest absent. We therefore, agreeable to the by-laws, resolved to open the chest by force; accordingly done. Expense to be charged to the brother now having the keys in his possession."

March 28, 1820, "Moved and seconded, that Elisha Woodard cannot be admitted to 'Set' in this Lodge, as a visitor or member, under existing circumstances, as it appears to us that he attained to the

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knowledge of Masonry by fraudulent and intriguing means."

In November, 1824, W. Brother Esek Cowen was appointed to deliver an address on the anniversary of St. John The Evangelist.

March 16, 1827, William W. Abbey was raised, but the Lodge and committee had been too fast in making him a Mason; also too slow in investigating his character, for, on April 10, on motion, it was "*Resolved*, that William W. Abbey be suspended from this Lodge until next regular meeting in September for unmasonic conduct." On September 5, the Lodge *Resolved*, "that William W. Abbey be expelled."

Until 1852 the Festivals of the Sts. John were "celebrated" by the Lodge with a banquet and speeches.

On November 22, 1889, the Lodge assisted M. W. John W. Vrooman, Grand Master, in laying the corner stone of the State Armory in our village.

Washington memorial services were held in Bethesda Church on December 3, 1899, when a sermon on "Washington, as a Mason," was delivered by our Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Joseph Carey, Rector.