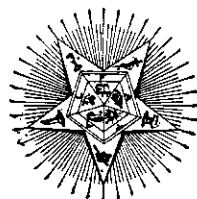


*Fremont & Anderson
Radiant Chapter 12
Denver Colo*

Coldwater Chapter No. 1

"Oldest Chapter in the World"



Order Eastern Star

1938



MEMORIAL

MRS. ELLA M. CULVER

Initiated February 25, 1870

Died December 15, 1935

65 years Membership

O. E. S. No. 1

Worthy Matron	Year	Worthy Patron
Mrs. Sarah Marsh	1867	David Bovee
Mrs. E. Charlotte McCrea	1867	David Bovee
Mrs. Alma Mansfield	1868	R. A. Hall
Mrs. Dorlesca Purinton	1869	M. Mansfield
Mrs. Dorlesca Purinton	1870	M. Mansfield
Mrs. Dorlesca Purinton	1871	G. H. Taylor
Mrs. Dorlesca Purinton	1872	David Bovee
Mrs. Eudora E. Hall	1873	M. Mansfield
Mrs. Eudora E. Hall	1874	A. J. Foster
Mrs. Eudora E. Hall	1875	A. J. Foster
Mrs. Alma Mansfield	1876	N. Rosenbaum
Mrs. Borilla Merrill	1877	M. H. Parker
Mrs. Borilla Merrill	1878	M. H. Parker
Mrs. Borilla Merrill	1879	M. H. Parker
Mrs. Borilla Merrill	1880	M. H. Parker
Mrs. Josephine Fuller	1881	J. S. Conover
Mrs. Harriett M. Parker	1882	J. S. Conover
Mrs. Harriet M. Parker	1883	J. S. Conover
Mrs. Harriet M. Parker	1884	C. E. Fanning
Mrs. Eudora E. Hall	1885	N. Rosenbaum
Mrs. Harriett M. Parker	1886	N. Rosenbaum
Mrs. Mary I. Conover	1887	C. R. Hutchinson
Mrs. Mary I. Conover	1888	C. R. Hutchinson
Mrs. Mary L. Blackwell	1889	Chas. A. Conover
Mrs. Harriet Rose	1890	Chas. A. Conover
Mrs. Harriet Rose	1891	C. E. Fanning
Mrs. Juno Conover	1892	T. A. Hilton
Mrs. Juno Conover	1893	T. A. Hilton
Mrs. Eleanor E. Merrill	1894	C. D. Sutton
Mrs. Juno Conover	1895	C. D. Sutton
Mrs. Emma George	1896	C. D. Sutton
Mrs. Emma George	1897	Chas. A. Conover
Mrs. Emma Howe	1898	H. B. George
Mrs. Juno Conover	1899	H. B. George
Mrs. Stella Pierce	1900	C. N. Legg
Mrs. Juno Conover	1901	H. B. George

Worthy Matron	Year	Worthy Patron
Mrs. Juno Conover	1902	H. B. George
Mrs. Juno Conover	1903	Herbert Close
Mrs. Daisy Wimer	1904	Herbert Close
Mrs. Daisy Wimer	1905	G. E. Kleindinst
Mrs. Cora E. Brown	1906	H. B. George
Mrs. Cora E. Brown	1907	H. B. George
Mrs. Cora E. Brown	1908	E. M. McElroy
Mrs. Cora E. Brown	1909	E. M. McElroy
Mrs. Lola Keep	1910	Robert Phillips
Mrs. Lola Keep	1911	Clare Wise
Mrs. Lola Keep	1912	Clare Wise
Mrs. Lola Keep	1913	Clare Wise
Mrs. Nellie Allen	1914	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Lena Gruner	1915	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Lena Gruner	1916	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Carrie Sweet	1917	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Adelaide Tuttle	1918	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Cora Burdick	1919	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Cora Burdick	1920	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Ina Miner	1921	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Ina Miner	1922	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Nellie Loose	1923	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Nellie Loose	1924	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Mae Lyon	1925	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Mae Lyon	1926	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Alma J. Norton	1927	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Beryl Gillette	1928	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Elizabeth Bowerman	1929	W. H. Simons
Mrs. Hellen Benedict	1930	Roland Benedict
Mrs. Mary Bidwell	1931	Roland Benedict
Mrs. Jessie Grove	1932	Guy Musser
Mrs. Josephine Sweezey	1933	Guy Musser
Mrs. Hazel Musser	1934	Guy Musser
Mrs. R. Ella Downes	1935	Guy Musser
Mrs. Clara Linn	1936	LaVerne Stansell
Mrs. Alice Moffitt	1937	LaVerne Stansell
Mrs. Mabel A. Rice	1938	E. B. Linn
Mrs. Jennie Lee	1939	"
Mrs. Ella Hobbs	1940	"
Mrs. Dot's Fox	1941	"
Mrs. Mary B. Linn	1942	"
Mrs. Geneva Oger	1943	"
Mrs. Jeanne Cochrane	1944	"

MOST WORTHY GRAND OFFICER

Jefferson S. Conover, M. W. G. Patron.....1886

PAST GRAND OFFICERS

O. E. S. NO. 1

Alma Mansfield, First Assistant Chairman.....	1867
Alma Mansfield, Grand Marshall.....	1868-69
Alma Mansfield, Grand Lecturer.....	1873-74
David Bovee, Grand Vice President.....	1868
David Bovee, Grand Lecturer.....	1869-70
David Purinton, Grand Vice President.....	1869-70
David Purinton, Grand Secretary.....	1873-83
Eudora E. Hall, Grand Treasurer.....	1875-76
Eudora E. Hall, Grand Conductress.....	1885-86
Dorlesca C. Purinton, W. G. President.....	1870-73
Dorlesca C. Purinton, Grand Treasurer.....	1876-77
Dorlesca C. Purinton, Grand Ada.....	1883-84
Dorlesca C. Purinton, Grand Chaplain.....	1894-95
Borilla Merrill, Grand Treasurer.....	1879-80
Borilla Merrill, Grand Conductress.....	1880-81
Borilla Merrill, Grand Assoc. Matron.....	1881-82
Borilla Merrill, W. G. Matron.....	1882-83
Wm. R. Worden, Grand Sentinel.....	1882-83
Josephine Fuller, Grand Warden.....	1883-84
Jefferson S. Conover, Grand Assoc. Patron.....	1884-85
Jefferson S. Conover, W. G. Patron.....	1885-86
Harriet M. Parker, Grand Conductress.....	1885-86
Harriet M. Parker, Grand Ruth.....	1886-87
Mary I. Conover, Grand Asso. Conductress.....	1887-88
C. B. Hutchinson, Grand Lecturer.....	1873-74
C. B. Hutchinson, Grand Asso. Patron.....	1887-88
Chas. A. Conover, Grand Asso. Patron.....	1894-95
Chas. A. Conover, W. G. Patron.....	1895-96
Juno Conover, Grand Organist.....	1909-10

PRESENT GRAND OFFICER

Josephine Sweezey, Grand Warder.....1937-38

History of the Organizing of Coldwater Chapter No. 1

A preliminary meeting to organize an Eastern Star Lodge of American Adoptive Rites was called at Masonic Hall April 18, 1867, by David Bovee, then Master of Tyre Lodge No. 18 F. and A. M. of Coldwater, Michigan.

The object of the meeting and the benefits of such an organization were duly presented, and on motion Mrs. L. C. Marsh was chosen chairman and Mr. Mortimer Mansfield as Secretary. A committee of five ladies and three gentlemen was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, and meeting adjourned for one week for committee to report.

April 26, 1867, meeting was again called to order by the chairman and officers selected as follows:

Worthy President, Mrs. L. C. Marsh; Vice President, Mr. David Bovee; 1st Patron, Mrs. Ariel Pierce; 2nd Patron, Mrs. A. B. Dickinson; 3rd Patron, Mrs. Mortimer Mansfield; 4th Patron, Mrs. A. McCrea; 5th Patron, Mrs. D. B. Purinton; Secretary, Miss F. A. Marsh; Treasurer, Mrs. John Hill; Conductor, Mrs. George Dumond; Guard, Mrs. N. Rosenbaum; Sentinel, Mr. Mortimer Mansfield.

On motion the officers as selected at this meeting be the Charter members of Coldwater Eastern Star Lodge of American Adoptive Rites.

At this meeting there were twenty applications presented, among them being D. B. Purinton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Allen Hall, and George Dumond. It was Brother George Dumond who later made our present Masonic Temple possible, by leaving a legacy to the Masonic Bodies, also to the Eastern Star, at the time of his death.

The fee for initiation was made fifty cents for a lady and one dollar for a gentlemen, but this law was soon changed and the fee for initiation made the same for both lady and gentlemen, fifty cents. Dues were twenty-five cents a year, and Grand Lodge dues 10 cents.

On October 11th, 1867, a call was received from

Adrian Lodge for a convention, to be held October 30, looking to the forming of an Eastern Star Grand Lodge, and the names of all officers of Coldwater Lodge were sent appendent to such call.

At this convention there were fifteen lodges represented, Adrian having the largest membership with 120, Fairfield second with 90 and Coldwater third with 72 members.

The several lodges were granted charters, the fee being ten dollars for each charter. As granted they were Rochester No. 1, Adrian No. 2, Coldwater No. 3, Bronson No. 4, Constantine No. 5, Sturgis No. 6, and so on, as lodges had been instituted.

By request Madina Lodge was chosen to exemplify the work, and did so at the first meeting of the Grand Lodge, but from that time on the name Madina does not appear in the records.

Sister Alma Mansfield was Assistant Chairman at the first Grand Lodge and Bro. David Boyce was elected Grand Vice President.

Coldwater Lodge filled an important place in the early history of the Grand Lodge. Having filled every office in the Grand Lodge not once but many times, how well and with what intelligence and zeal on their parts, and others, who builded for us our present beautiful Order the records show. On October 7, 8, 1868, Grand Lodge was held at Coldwater and eight new Lodges had been formed but two of the first fourteen Lodges formed failed to pay Grand Lodge dues, and were not represented, Rochester No. 1 being one of the number and was never reinstated. At the eighth convention held at Hastings, Adrian with several others failed to pay its Grand Lodge dues, and the Charter was demanded by the convention held at Lyon October 4, 1876.

Rochester No. 1 and Adrian No. 2, being instituted before Coldwater, now having been dropped by the Grand Lodge, made Coldwater the oldest Eastern Star Lodge in the Grand Lodge.

Coldwater has entertained the Grand Lodge at four of its early conventions, October 7 and 8, 1868, October 2 and 3, 1872, October 6 and 7, 1875, and October 10 and 11, 1883.

In 1879 the Star Lodge was reorganized and the officers were named as now—Worthy Matron instead of President, Worthy Patron instead of Vice President, and the Star Points Ada, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa, and two new officers, Associate Matron and Associate Conductor were added.

At the Grand Lodge held at Coldwater October 6, 7, 1875, an amendment to the Constitution and By-laws, to admit to membership in Eastern Star Lodges the mothers of Master Masons, after a warm debate was finally lost.

When Brother Charles A. Conover was Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter in 1896, as a compliment to Bro. Conover, and because of its being the oldest Chapter, Coldwater Chapter No. 3 was changed to Coldwater Chapter No. 1, and as far as it is known it is the oldest Chapter in the world.

On Nov. 15, 1876, at Indianapolis, a General Grand Chapter was formed and an invitation was extended to all Grand Chapters to unite to promote uniformity of the work. Michigan was to send three delegates, one of whom was Brother D. B. Purinton, of Coldwater. Convention was held at Chicago May 8, 1878.

The regalia worn by the members was the same as that of the Masonic brother. Later a star was added in colors appropriate to the degrees, or the five points of the Star. Coldwater Chapter has one of these aprons among its records, also the complete minutes of all meetings held each month since its organization April 18, 1867. It also has bound copies, complete, of all Grand Lodge of Grand Chapter meetings from 1867 to the present date.

It has been stated by some of the members of Miriam Chapter No. 1 of Illinois that their Chapter preceded Coldwater Chapter No. 1, each being No. 1 in their state; but from the History of the Order of the Eastern Star, by Rev. Willis D. Engle, we find that Michigan leads

the list of Grand Chapters, that Miriam Chapter was organized March 4, 1869, two years after Coldwater, and the Grand Chapter October 6, 1875, proving conclusively that Coldwater is the oldest Eastern Star Chapter in the world.

Brother Harold V. B. Voorhis of New York is at present (1938) engaged in a task of writing for publication a history of the Order of the Eastern Star and in seeking authoritative information on the history of Coldwater Chapter No. 1 corresponded with Past Grand Patron Charles A. Conover about the records of this chapter. Brother Conover was able to supply him with the photographic copy of the very first minutes of the organization of Coldwater Chapter, dated April 18, 1867, followed by the records of the first meeting after organization. Also a copy of the original charter granted on the organization of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, at Adrian, October 30, 31, 1867 when sixty-nine delegates met, representing fifteen "Adoptive Lodges" with 373 members. Another interesting object was a photograph of an O. E. S. apron, home made, and used by the presiding officers of Coldwater Chapter.

In the correspondence in reference to this history, Brother Voorhis claims every opportunity has been offered to six chapters claiming continuous existence, to produce records or substantiating evidence as proof of such existence prior to 1870. The information secured has been assembled in tabulated form and while this system of listing may place Coldwater Chapter No. 1 at an apparent disadvantage due to the fact that it did not become an "Eastern Star" Chapter in name until 1878, the reference to other chapter records will clarify its position.

This leaves Coldwater Chapter No. 1, of Coldwater, Michigan, as the only existing organized body of the Eastern Star degrees which has produced official minute book records dating as far back as April 18, 1867, nor is there extant any other charter of any description dated prior to its date--October 31, 1867.

Of the six other chapters noted above only three appear to have been active during the early years. The other three, although existing, had periods of dormancy. Hence "Coldwater Chapter has entrenched itself by producing not only its charter, but its complete minutes from the time of its inception as an 'Eastern Star Lodge of the American Adoptive Rites.' "