

Coldwater Chapter No. 1  
*"Oldest Chapter in the World"*



Order Eastern Star  
1930

# O. E. S. No. 1



MRS. ELLA M. CULVER  
Initiated Feb. 25, 1870

Worthy Matron	Worthy Patron
Mrs. Sarah Marsh.....1867	David Boyce
Mrs. E. Charlotte McCrea 1867	David Boyce
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 Boyce
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. Harriet 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. Harriet M. Parker.1886	N. Rosenbaum
Mrs. Mary J. Conover.....1887	C. R. Hutchinson
Mrs. Mary J. 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
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

Worthy Matron		Worthy Patron	
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 Boverman	1929	W. H. Simons	
Mrs. Hellen Benedict	1930	Roland Benedict	

### 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 Boyce, Grand Vice-President	1868
David Boyce, 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 Asso. 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 Asso. 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

## HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZING OF COLD- WATER 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 gentleman, but this law was soon changed and the fee for initiation made the same for both lady and gentleman, 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 the 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 Bovee 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. Purington, 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.

Sister Ella Culver was initiated into Coldwater Eastern Star Chapter February 25, 1870. She was Secretary for seventeen years and was only absent three meetings. She was made a life member April 8, 1918. Sister Culver has been a member of the Eastern Star more years than anyone else in Michigan, and as far as we know, in the world.

Brother Aaron P. Unangst also was initiated into the Chapter, March 24, 1870, and was made a life member April 8, 1920.

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 heads 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.