

Early Leaders of the Grand Council of Missouri- Pt. V

Jacob W. Thompson, KYCH

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri Education Committee

William Berry Wilson, PIGM, PGHP

Our Fifteenth Grand Master- 1882

Past Grand High Priest-Grand Chapter, R.A.M. of Missouri- 1888

William Berry Wilson was born on January 12, 1831 in Appleton City, Missouri.¹ He spent his youth on the family farm, his parents being among the early settlers to the area. His education came in the form of local schools and was supplemented by a private tutor. The tutor, a Dr. Moses Harris was primarily set to preparing young Wilson for a college education. Wilson was then off and entered Bellvue College in New York, and at the age of 19 in 1850 graduated from there. Later he pursued additional medical course work at the St. Louis Medical College. Wilson returned to Missouri shortly after his graduation and set up in practice in Cape Girardeau, where he remained through the rest of his life. On September 13th, 1853 Wilson married Miss Ann Eliza Juden. Ann passed in 1886 and in 1890 Wilson married again, this time to Louisa Giboney. Wilsons work in the medical field was well regarded and appreciated. In 1852 shortly after setting his shingle out in Cape Girardeau, the nearby city of Jackson saw a cholera outbreak, Wilson headed off and with illness and death all around labored, later speaking of the risk as nothing beyond an ordinary day. Wilson later engaged in the pharmacy business and was also a member of the Board of Regents for the Southeast Normal School (now Southeast Missouri State University) during its early establishment. Further engaged in civic and general interest he was president of the Southeaster District Agricultural



¹ While one masonic biography says January 12th, his headstone says January 14th.

Society, the Cape Girardeau and Jackson Gravel Road Company, was vice President and a Director of the First National Bank in Cape Girardeau

Wilson received the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry in St. Marks Lodge No. 93 in 1853, and went on to serve a staggering 23 terms as Master of said Lodge.² In 1865 Wilson was appointed District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer, serving those appointments until 1891.

Wilson was exalted to the sublime degree of Holy Royal Arch in Clarkton Chapter, located in Dunklin County in 1872. He later affiliated with Wilson Chapter No. 75 and as that body was just being chartered, he served as its first High Priest. In similar service to his Lodge, he served his chapter for 15 years as its High Priest. In 1888 he was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Missouri. Wilson was part of the initial corps of companions who set Cape Council No. 20 to work, and as with the Chapter- served as its first Master (in this case just for a few years). In 1880 Wilson was elected Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for the Grand Council of Missouri, and advanced regularly to be elected Grand Master in 1882.

Wilson was knighted and received the orders of Masonic Templary in St. Louis, Mo at St. Louis Commandery No. 1 in 1889. That same year he moved his membership and affiliated with Cape Girardeau Commandery No. 55 as one of the charter members, serving as the first Commander of No. 55, and doing so from 1890-1893.

Outside the Fraternity he was First Master Workman of Cape Lodge No. 135, A.O.U.W.

Around the age of 66 Wilson retired from active practice due to medical issues, and those over time increased. He passed on October 18, 1900 and is interred at New Lorimier Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

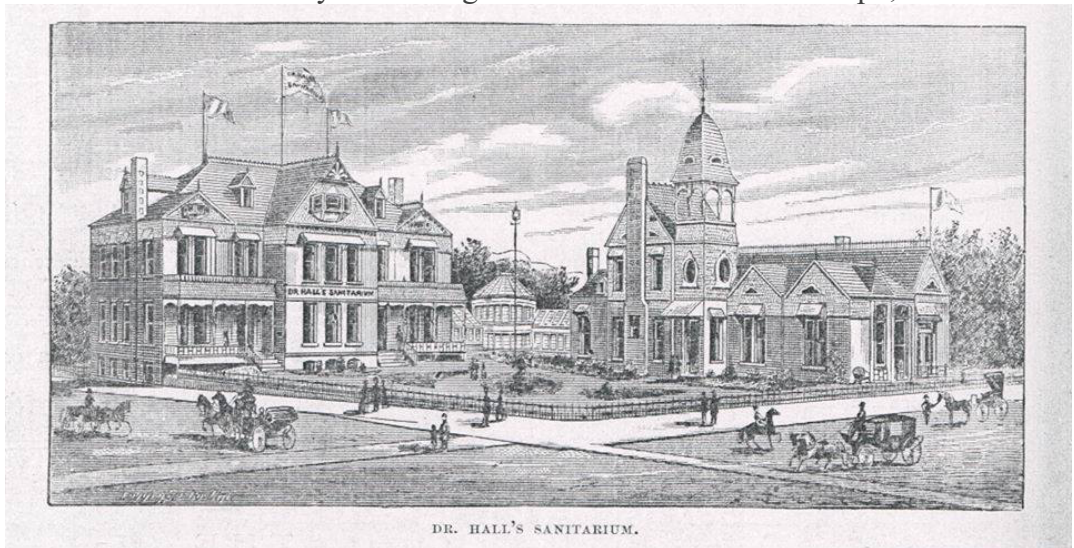
² 1859-1876, and again in 1879-1881, 1887-1888

William G. Hall, PIGM, PGC

Our Sixteenth Grand Master- 1883

Past Gr. Commander- Grand Commandery of Missouri, Knights Templar- 1881

William G. Hall was born on September 10, 1831, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.³ Hall was educated at Jefferson Medical College, Western Reserve Medical and the Homeopathic Medical College. Inevitable he set up a practice in Chargin Falls, Ohio. A northerner by birth and sentiments he volunteered during the Civil War and was commissioned as a Major and the surgeon for the 10th Ohio volunteer Cavalry. Following the War he moved to St. Joseph, Mo in 1865. Hall set his shingle out and went into practice. In 1885 he built what was called Dr. Hall's Sanitarium, a three-story edifice with a price tag of then \$75,000.



The institution seemed to be to large a leap for the area and for Hall and closed six years after opening, only to be sold for the discounted offering of \$12,500. Following this failure Hall shifted his attention back to the private practice of medicine. Hall married Ms. Mary Edalie Carter and they had one son, Edward Parks Hall

Hall was made a Master Mason in Chargin Falls, Ohio in 1860 at Golden Gate Lodge No. 245. Six years later he affiliated with St. Joseph Lodge No. 118. Reports indicate that he was exalted to the sublime degree of Holy Royal Arch in Quincy Chapter No. 5, Quincy Illinois in 1866. Several years later he demitted (1869) to assist in the formation of Mitchell Chapter in St. Joseph. At Mitchell Chapter he served as the High Priest in 1884. Companion Hall was greeted in St. Joseph Council No. 9 in 1876 and by 1881 served as it's Master. In 1882 he was elected Deputy Grand Master and the next year elected Grand Master of the Grand Council.

³ Or noted as September 10, 1842



William was knighted and received the orders of Masonic Templary in St. Joseph Commandery No. 4 in 1878 and two years later served as it's Commander. He went on to serve the State quickly thereafter laboring for the Grand Commandery and was elected in 1881 as the Grand Commander.

Hall was also a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, a Shriner and a member of the Red Cross of Constantine.

Hall died in Kansas City, Mo on June 11th, 1915 and is interred at Mt. Mora Cemetery in St. Joseph.

William A. Lord, PIGM

Our Nineteenth Grand Master- 1886

What is known about William A. Lord is vague and not overly clear. Lord came to Missouri from Tennessee, that is perhaps as much as is known of his broad youth and general background.

He is believed to have received the degrees in Edgefield Lodge No. 254 in Tennessee. Arriving in Missouri he affiliated with Charity Lodge in St. Joseph in June of 1879. In 1884 Lord served as Master of Charity Lodge.

He was later exalted in Mitchell Chapter in 1879, the same year of his arrival in St. Joseph. Lord went on to serve as High Priest in 1881.

Companion Lord was greeted in St. Joseph Council No. 9 in 1880 and went on to serve as Master of the Council in 1883 and 1887. He was called to greater service and elected Grand Principal Conductor of the Work in 1884, the following year he held no office, and in 1886 he was elected from the floor to the office of Grand Master of the Grand Council.

Lord was knighted and received the orders of Templary in 1879 at Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 4 and in 1884 served as Commander of said commandery.

In November of 1894 he demitted from the council and records are unclear whether he affiliated elsewhere thereafter. His dimit include also the Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery, severing his ties to the Fraternity.

William H. Stansbury, PIGM

Our Twentieth Grand Master- 1887

William H. Stansbury was born in August of 1827 in Fredericktown Maryland. Stansbury married Ms. Rachel Bingham and to this union was born three children.

Stansbury was a Past Master of Cass Lodge No. 147 in Harrsionville.

He was exalted in Signet Chapter No. 68 in 1871 and served that body as High Priest in 1878, 1880, 1882-86, and 1888. In 1883 Stansbury was greeted in Arcana Council No. 16. The next year Stansbury served as Master of the Council and did so for multiple terms thereafter.⁴ In 1885 he was elected Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and from there advanced regularly to be elected Grand Master of the Council in 1887.

Stansbury took the orders of Masonic Templary and was knighted in Bayard Commandery No. 26 in 1875, and served as its Commander for eleven years, from 1885-1896 inclusive.

Stansbury died in Harisonville, Mo on August 23, 1897, just seven days shy of turning 70 and is interred in Oakland Cemetery.

⁴ 1884, 1885-1887, 1890, 1891