

Zion Lodge # 172, in
Bloomfield Township

Bloomfield Township is one of the early townships of Ontario County. It was created when the townships were laid out in 1789 and is located northwest of the center of Ontario County. The name Bloomfield comes from the allusion to the beauty of landscape and foliage. According to Millikin the early settlers came from Lyme and Guilford, Conn. and Sheffield, Mass. The pioneer settler was Deacon John Adams in 1789. By the year 1813 Bloomfield was the most populated township in Ontario County. Victor Township was separated off from Bloomfield in 1813, and again in 1833 Bloomfield Township was divided into West and East Bloomfield Townships. East Bloomfield, Shepards Mills, Griffiths Mills, and Brag Village were settlements in East Bloomfield. North and West Bloomfield, and Millers Corners were located in West Bloomfield. A petition, dated January 5, 1808, was presented to Grand Lodge. It had the signatures of the following Freemasons living in Bloomfield Township:

Eber Norton -- Nathaniel Baldwin -- Moses Howell -- Calib Hopkins -- Moses Gaylord -- Asa Turk -- Tyranius Collins -- Daniel Harris -- Ezra Wart -- Isaac Stone -- Thomas Sprague.

The petition was recommended by Ontario Lodge # 23 in Canandaigua and by Genesee Lodge # 138 in Richmond Township, in February 1808. A dispensation was issued by Grand Lodge on July 12, 1808. A charter was granted on September 7, 1808, M. W. DeWitt Clinton, Grand Master. R. W. Philetus Swift of Ark Lodge # 160, Grand Visitor, installed the first officers on January 12, 1809 in the house of Joel Steele. Visitors attending the installation included W. Silvester Tiffany, W. Charles Little, and W. John Clark. Bro. Clark was a member of Ontario Lodge # 23. The first officers were:

Eber Norton, Worshipful Master -- Thomas Sprague, Senior Warden -- Isaac W. Stone Junior Warden.

Masters of Zion Lodge

Oliver Rose, 1814-18, 1823, 1824
Aaron Ackley, 1821, 1822
Daniel Holmes 1830

Samuel Nichols 2nd, 1819, 1820
Lyman Wilcox, 1822, 1824
Claudius Victor Boughton
Thomas H. Kellog

Meeting Places

1809 -- House of Joel Steele 1819-20 -- House of Darius Carter

Honored Brethren

R. W. Oliver Rose

Bro. Oliver Rose was the first storekeeper in Centerfield, Bloomfield Township around 1810. Earlier he had been a schoolmaster, and the proprietor of distillery as well as cattle dealer. He served as Master of Zion Lodge in 1814-1818, 1823, 1824. On June 2, 1819 he introduced to Grand Lodge the Oliver Rose Plan for dividing the Grand Lodge of the State of New York into eighteen Grand Visiting Districts, each District to have an inspector who would combine the duties of Grand Visitor and Grand Lecturer. The Oliver Rose Plan was rejected, but the need was shown for more and smaller Masonic Districts. (In 1814 New York State Masonry had been divided into three Grand Masonic Districts each in the charge of a Grand Visitor.) In 1821 and 1833 Bro. Rose was appointed Grand Visitor for the Sixth Masonic District (Ontario, Yates, Steuben, and Schuyler Counties), 1821/22 1833/34

The last annual return of Zion Lodge to Grand Lodge was submitted in 1831. The charter of Zion Lodge was forfeited by Grand Lodge on June 5, 1835.

Bro. Deming -

I copied this short history from the history of Freemasonry in Ontario County by Doc. Stelter of Ark Lodge, compiled in 1958.

Andy Charles