

The History of
KING HIRAM LODGE
A.F. 6 A.M. No. 57

The history of King Hiram Lodge starts with a petition for a charter to operate as a lodge signed in February, 1828 by the following masons who were members of Oriental Star Lodge, Livermore and Blazing Star Lodge, Rumford. The list follows: Brother

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| John G. Barnard | **Joseph Yeaton |
| *Henry Farwell | James M. Williams |
| Levi Stowell | Charles L. Eustis |
| Josiah M. Hall | **Johnathan Holman |
| John M. Eustis | Walter Carpenter |
| **Silas Barnard | Humphrey M. Eaton |
| **Ephraim Marble | |

*Charter members of Blazing Star Lodge, Rumford
**Members of Blazing Star Lodge, Rumford – 1819

The charter was granted on April 27, 1828. It was signed by M.W. Samuel Fessenden, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine. The charter was granted to the above brothers. By appointment, the following brothers were the first officers of King Hiram Lodge:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| W.M. John G. Barnard | S.W. John M. Eustis |
| J.W. James M. Williams | S.D. Ephraim Marble |
| J.D. Charles L. Eustis | S.S. Johnathan Holman |
| J.S. Nathaniel Graves | Trea. Humphrey Eaton |
| Sec. Levi Stowell | Tyler Josiah Hall |

This lodge was never constituted, and did but little work, not any since the anti-Masonic crusade. It was recorded on November 10, 1828 that District Deputy Thomas Clarke received a total of \$1.75 which was the per capita tax from fourteen members at 12% cents per member. In 1829 D.D.G.M. Clarke sent a receipt of \$6.00 for three brethren that were crafted. They were Peter Trask, Daniel Young and John J. Holman. There isn't any record of further activity after this date. However, in notes of Mrs. Rachel Kidder, a well known local historian there is mentioning of the fact that the Masonic Order met over the Bank Building on the corner of Weld St. and Main St. She noted that it was to be checked on, but there isn't any record of its being done. She has since passed away.

On March 20, 1848 another petition was signed, and sent from King Hiram Lodge requesting another charter as the one they had was returned to the Grand Lodge of Maine, February 23, 1853. These dates aren't in chronological order, but the copies of the writings from the Grand Lodge state them this way. This petition was approved by D.D.G.M. H. Hutchins, Jr. on March 20, 1848. Four of those who petitioned in 1828 appear on this one also. They are:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| John M. Eustis | Joseph Yeaton |
| Silas Barnard | Ephraim Marble |

No further writings are available to explain what happened with this petition.

We do have a copy of a letter from the files of the Grand Lodge dated May 6, 1862 that covers the history of the 1828 petition and its signers, and that the 1828 petition was

returned to the Grand Lodge on February 23, 1853. However, there isn't any mentioning to whom it was written or who wrote it.

In 1871 several brethren from the Dixfield area for the third time, sent a petition to the Grand Lodge of Maine to obtain a charter. There was some confusion here also, because if the names of four of the original petitioners that were still living had been sent in, the Grand Lodge would have automatically sent King Hiram another charter under the original number 57. As it was, only three names were sent. Later the fourth name was sent and proceedings went well from then on. Thirty dollars was sent to the Grand Lodge with the request that the charter, demits, and by-laws be returned by June 24th. The first meeting was held August 1, 1871 with *Wor. Silas Barnard in the EAST. His officers by appointment were:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| **S.W. Isaac Randall | **J.W. James Wright |
| **S.D. Henry Marble | **J.D. Frank Stanley |
| S.S. Albion Marsh | *J.S. John M. Eustis |
| **Trea. Calvin Rose | **Sec. John H. Ellis |

Other members on that petition were:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| **John Stanley | **Henry O. Stanley | **George Randall |
| Ben Irish | Charles Philoon | **William Brackett |
| William Mitchell | *Charles L. Eustis | *John J. Holman |
| H. M. Cox | **H. Robinson | **Joseph Holman |
| **William Bolster | George S. Holman | William Wheeler ⁺ |
| **Tillotson Hall ⁺ | George S. Newman | |

*The four petitioners who were members in 1828.

**These brethren were members of Blazing Star Lodge, Rumford before they were demitted to King Hiram.

⁺These two brothers were charter members of Blazing Star, Rumford. Their names do not appear on the 1828 charter, but evidently they decided to demit to King Hiram Lodge in 1871. The home of William Wheeler was where Blazing Star Lodge first met.

The following brethren were officers of Blazing Star Lodge, Rumford: ...Silas Barnard, J.W. – 1822....

FACTS PERTINENT TO John G. Barnard and Silas Barnard

These two brothers were brothers [sic]. John Barnard was our first brother in 1828. Silas Barnard was the first master when King Hiram Lodge re-chartered in 1871. They were the sons of William and Anna Wheeler Barnard [sic]. The family moved here from Mass. In 1805 so that William could work on the river drives of Webb River. William drowned on one of the drives in 1810. These drives are written about in great detail in "Pines and Pioneers" by Mrs. W. Smith....After their father's death [sic] the two brothers [sic] remained in the area, and became prominent citizens.

The record of Wor. Bro. Silas Barnard appears as follows:

He was initiated, passed and raised in Blazing Star Lodge, Rumford, Maine.

He was master of both Blazing Star Lodge and King Hiram Lodge.

He was the Charter Master of King Hiram Lodge in 1871 the second time they petitioned for a charter.

Wor. Bro. Silas Barnard lived 77 years, 6 months, and 5 days, and in that time he served his town

and state in many ways. Among these he was twice elected representative to the state Legislature, twice elected to the state Senate, and was once on the Governor's Council. He was also County Commissioner in the County of Oxford. By executive appointment, he surveyed out much of this area. He was also engaged in running the North Customs Boundary Line. In 1873, on March 21st, Bro. Barnard made that journey to that Celestial Lodge above.

Wor. Bro. John G. Barnard was born in 1797 in Marlboro, Mass. He died of typhoid fever in Mexico, Maine on October 31, 1853. The records don't show much of what he did as a citizen. He married Almira Whittemore Page in 1825. They had six daughters and two sons, one of whom was named Hiram Abif who died while a prisoner in the Andersonville Prison during the Civil War.

[The foregoing was transcribed on May 18, 2007 by Peter R. Stowell and was taken from "King Hiram Lodge, Dixfield, 1828 – 1976," pages 5, 6, 7, 17, and 18.]