

PHASE II

History of United Lodge

1855 - 1996



*Lodge Room in the Nesbitt Block
1897 - 1954*

In the early 1850's, a few Masons in Brighton and area felt the need of mutual instruction and social intercourse with their brethren. They forwarded a petition to Grand Lodge asking for the renewal of their charter and in 1855 received a second English Charter No. 19.

The first meeting of the revised Lodge was held on August 11, 1855. At the second, six petitions for membership were received. (The meeting place is not known.) Later the Lodge met in their own Lodge room on the 2nd floor of J.B. Young's cabinet shop at the northwest corner of Main Street and Kingsley Avenue. Since then, the Lodge has had several meeting places until 1954 when it was decided by the members to build their own temple. (See Meeting Places.)

Dissatisfaction with the Grand Lodge of England led to Masons in Canada forming their own Grand Lodges. In 1858 United Lodge surrendered their English Charter to become United Lodge No. 29 in the register of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

For many years, the Lodge worked under great difficulties. Travelling was not easy and communications were practically nil. Many of the brethren could not read or write as education was not compulsory and competent teachers were few. Candidates were given the lectures by officers who were recycled over and over until new officers were trained. For example: Nathaniel Thayer was a prominent member of our Lodge from 1822 to 1827. His son Ira B. Thayer was initiated in No. 29 in 1868 and was Master of the Lodge ten times