



# ***Freemasonry in Iowa***



Many people are proud of their heritage. By petitioning for membership in an Iowa Masonic lodge, you will be associating with an Iowa fraternal order that was organized in 1844, several years before our state was admitted into the Union. Freemasonry, however, dates its formal beginnings to the 17th Century. Thus, you will become, upon acceptance, a member of not only the oldest (and most prestigious) fraternity in Iowa, but also in the entire world. You will become a member of an organization whose Iowa roots extend back to our first territorial governor and whose heritage includes many of Iowa's finest citizens.

There were many Masons among the vanguard of pioneers that came to the Territory in the early 1840's. They came in wagons and on boats, settled along the Mississippi, and staked their claims. Some of them were farmers, but there were also merchants, teachers, businessmen, miners, lawyers, and politicians, all of them anxious and excited about the opportunities that awaited them in the "heartland" -- Iowa -- "the beautiful land" as the Indians called it.

By the time the "Iowa Territory" was two years old, the settlers discovered they had a fraternal kinship. According to the records, the first Masonic meeting in the Iowa Territory was held on the evening of November 6, 1840, in the Burlington carpenter shop of Brother Evan Evans. As a result of that meeting, a dispensation was granted on November 20, 1840, by the Grand Lodge of Missouri to form a Masonic lodge at Burlington, Des Moines Lodge No. 41.

Several months later (on February 4, 1841) similar action was taken resulting in the formation of Iowa Lodge No. 42 at Bloomington (later to become Muscatine).

Dubuque Lodge No. 62 was officially formed by the pioneer Masons in Dubuque on October 10, 1842.

On December 9, 1842, nine Masons met in Iowa City to organize the last of the four lodges which would form the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M., Iowa City Lodge No. 63.

A delegation was appointed to attend the next session of the Grand Lodge of Missouri with a petition to form the Grand Lodge of Iowa. The request was granted on January 2, 1844, and, just one week later, delegates from those first four lodges met in a room over Sanxer's Iron Store in Iowa City and organized the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M.

The first four lodges were officially designated as Des Moines Lodge No. 1 (with 25 members), Iowa Lodge No. 2 (with 20 members), Dubuque Lodge No. 3 (with 28 members), and Iowa City Lodge No. 4 (with 28 members). Total membership of the Grand Lodge of Iowa was 101 members.

**Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A.M.**  
**PETITION FOR THE DEGREES OF MASONRY**

(Please print)

To the officers and members of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons at \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa, I, respectfully petition your lodge for the Masonic Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason.

Full name: First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you profess a faith in a Supreme Being? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ I have resided in Iowa continuously since \_\_\_\_\_

I resided previously in City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Names and ages of minor children: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor other than a minor traffic offense? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If yes explain the offense and when \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to submit to a criminal background check. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Have you ever previously petitioned a Masonic lodge? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, I applied for membership in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ located at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and was rejected.

My occupation is: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**References - Names and Addresses:**  
(They need not be members of the Masonic Fraternity)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

All of the statements I have made in this petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. An intentional misstatement of the facts on this petition is a Masonic offense. The penalty shall be expulsion. I understand that by submitting this petition I may be subject to a criminal background inquiry. An additional release form will be required.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned members of this lodge recommend the applicant as a proper candidate for the mysteries of Masonry.

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Committee use only)

The Worshipful Master appointed the following brothers as the Investigating Committee to meet with the petitioner.

Committee	Report
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____