

History of Phoenix Lodge #131

Nashville Lodge No. 142, U.D., first appears in the proceeding of the Grand Lodge in October 1848, when it was represented by John M Seabury, who was probably its Worshipful Master. Indications are that G.P. Smith was the Senior Warden and R. Stewart was the Junior Warden.

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in 1853, Grand Master A.M. Hughes, in his address, said: "It will be recollected by many members of this Grand Lodge that at the time of its session there existed four Lodges in the city of Nashville. Entertaining with many other Masons that this number was greater than the wants of the city required, and fearing their operation might not conduce to the harmony and efficient action of the fraternity, I prevailed upon the members of those three Lodges - Sewanee No. 131, Sequoyah No. 156 and Nashville No. 142 - to surrender their charters and take out a dispensation for a new Lodge. Acting upon this suggestion, the three Lodges entered into an agreement to this effect, and I granted them a dispensation, authorizing the brethren to open a new Lodge by the name of PHOENIX LODGE No. 131."

The Lodge met in the Cumberland Lodge Building until a fire destroyed the building in July of 1856... destroying many of the records of the first 5 years.

Following the Civil War, Phoenix continued to meet in the Cumberland Lodge Building, Known as the Second Temple, until 1914 when Cumberland embarked on the building of their Third Temple. During the building phase Phoenix met at 306 7th Avenue North, and in 1915 416 ½ Union Street. On October 19, 1914 Cumberland laid the cornerstone of their new Temple, located at 319 7th Avenue. The building was occupied on December 13, 1915, and Phoenix stayed there until 1961.

On June 1, 1990 a mortgage ceremony was held by the members of Phoenix to celebrate the final payment for their share of the building. Under the auspices of William H. Minneci, Worshipful Master of Phoenix #131 and Cecil W. Venable, Worshipful Master of Cumberland Lodge #8, a plaque was dedicated to the members of both Lodges bearing the inscription: