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BANGOR, MAINE

Extends it's Best Wishes  
to our many friends  
in HOULTON . . .

ON IT'S

**150th BIRTHDAY**

and wishes that  
you will have many  
more Prosperous  
Years to Come.

**PENOBSCOT HOTEL**  
BANGOR, MAINE

George R. Hannigan  
*Manager*

**Lodge Now In Residence of Its First Noble Grand**



It was a remarkable coincidence that when Rockabema Lodge, I.O.O.F., of Houlton decided, late in the thirties, to buy their own home, the residence of their first Noble Grand, Frederick A. Powers should be on the market and purchased. It now furnishes commodious quarters for the three branches of the order here, at 132 Main Street.

**Rockabema Lodge, Odd Fellows, Has Furnished Three Grand Masters**

As it might be expected by those who are familiar with the name and the scene, Rockabema Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, derived its title from the lake of the same name in the Moro region, west of Houlton.

Some of the first members of the order here were ardent fishermen and Rockabema lake was one of their haunts for relaxation and to indulge their favorite sport.

What more natural choice could there be when a name for the new lodge in Houlton came up for selection than to choose one with pleasant associations?

**BOTH BEAR NUMBER 78**

It was Feb. 23, 1881 that Rockabema Lodge was instituted in Houlton and it was 16 years later, almost to the exact day, that Portia Rebekah Lodge was established here on February 24, 1897. By an odd circumstance, the line of progression of both branches produced the same number, 78, for each lodge. Aroostook Encampment, No. 41, came into being here between the two, on Feb. 26, 1884.

The first officers of the lodge is a roster of some of the outstanding citizens of that era. Frederick A. Powers, later to become Houl-

ton's first Justice on the Supreme Court of Maine, was the first noble grand of the order here.

Samuel Lane was vice grand, Richard L. Turney, treasurer; William C. Donnell, secretary; Charles West was warden, Newton A. Hoak, conductor, Samuel Gray, inner guard and Silas Taber, outer guard.

Dr. Charles Robinson for R.S.-N.G.; Varney Pierce, L.S.N.G.; L. O. Ludwig, R.S.V.G.; Fred R. Smith, L.S.V.G.; John Chadwick, R.S.S.; George Davis, L.S.S.

**FIRE FORCES MOVE**

The first lodge home of the order here was in Old Liberty Hall, so called, which then stood on the site now occupied by the Junior high school. Shortly afterward the lodge moved to quarters in the Gray block on Main street but were forced elsewhere when that building was destroyed by fire.

At that time the Masonic orders of Houlton were holding their sessions in rooms on the top floor of what was then known as the Putnam and White building, now the location of Taggart & Gartley. The

which was purchased to be occupied as a residence by the Odd Fellows lodge had, for many years, been the residence of the order's first Noble Grand, Frederick A. Powers.

With a home acquired, the task of remodeling and furnishing was undertaken. It was a considerable project but one to which help came from the Rebekahs as well as the Aroostook Encampment.

In June, 1941, the new lodge hall

was officially dedicated with G.M. John W. Thornton of Lewiston present to officiate. He was assisted by G.P. Frank L. Douglas and the president of the Rebekah Assembly of Maine, Mrs. Melissa Brackett, as well as other Grand Lodge officers and members from 37 I.O.O.F. lodges in Maine and New Brunswick.

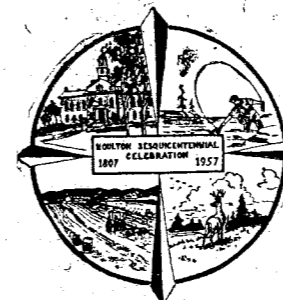
**THREE GRAND MASTERS**

Three times during its history

has Rockabema Lodge been honored by having one of its members elected to serve in the highest office within the jurisdiction of Maine, as Grand Masters. Ira G. Hersey held the office in 1908-09, W. S. Lewin in 1921-22 and Elmer Currie in 1945-46. In addition, W. S. Lewin was elevated to the office of Grand Patriarch of the Encampment in 1943-44.

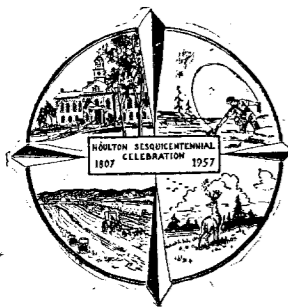
Following is the list of Past Noble Grands of Rockabema Lodge, No. 78, I.O.O.F., from 1881 to 1957:

1881 Frederick A. Powers	1907 Chas. A. Lyons	1933 Carl Hawkins
82 Samuel Lane	08 Ollie A. Jacobs	34 Ferdinand Hunter
83 W. C. Donnell	09 Wm. F. Burt	35 Merle B. Fairley
84 A. L. Lumbert	10 L. S. Purington	36 Lewis A. Potter
85 H. J. Hatheway	11 B. B. McIntyre	37 Gilford Colbath
86 C. H. Wiggins	12 Lowell Chandler	38 John W. Peabody
87 Ira G. Hersey	13 Frank Dunn	39 Lawrence Peabody
88 J. A. Millar	14 Trenton B. Currie	40 Claude Tomilson
89 Harry M. Briggs	15 Benjamin Carson	41 Ralph Black
90 Jas. H. Sinclair	16 A. B. Smart	42 Harry Clifford
91 F. O. Smith 1st	17 Geo. B. Hunter	43 Franklin T. Jarvis
92 A. G. Rich	18 John Stewart	44 Eldridge Ingraham
93 Calvin Fox	19 Guy C. Porter	45 Samuel Boutilier
94 F. A. Peabody	20 Alex. Cumming	46 Eldridge Ingraham
95 Theodore Fox	21 Chas. Atherton	47 Gerald Dunphy
96 Harry L. Putnam	22 Jas. S. Peabody	48 Royal Brown
97 Michael Clark	23 Otis Oaks	49 Kenneth Duff
98 John Q. Adams	24 Clarence Libby	50 Fred W. Johnston
99 Wallace Dykeman	25 Jas. I. Nason	51 James Crawford
1900 John G. Chadwick	26 Chas. M. Lunt	52 Fred Huggard
01 G. T. Holyoke	27 Elmer J. Currie	53 Paul Reed
02 Frank L. Cook	28 Luke A. Hawkins	54 Cedric Somerville
03 Geo. W. Wiggins	29 Leigh Cleveland	55 A. E. Tomilson
04 Parker M. Ward	30 Murray Russell	56 Clem. Dunning
05 Chas. B. Whitcomb	31 Frank N. Helms	57 George Brown
06 Ora C. Pomroy	32 Angus Tomilson	



**Congratulations**

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .  
**THE HOULTON PIONEER TIMES**  
 . . . on its 100th BIRTHDAY  
 and  
**TO THE PEOPLE OF HOULTON —**  
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18 DELICIOUS FLAVORS

location of Taggett & Gartley. The Masons invited the Odd Fellows to make use of their facilities, an invitation that was quite readily accepted.

They used these quarters until S. A. Gray had replaced his burned wooden building with a brick structure which was ready for occupancy in 1894, so the lodge historian reports. This building is the one now occupied by the Day jewelry store.

**MOVE TO FOGG BLOCK**

The affairs of both Rockabema and Portia Rebekah lodges were conducted in these quarters until 1903 when both bodies moved to more commodious quarters on the top floor of the Almon H. Fogg Company block at the corner of Main and Mechanic streets. This was a new brick structure which the company had erected on the site of their store which was destroyed by fire the year before.

A 20 year lease was taken on the quarters even when they were in an unfinished state, and in this home the members developed unusually fine and comfortable rooms which they were to occupy with great satisfaction for the next 37 years.

**NEW HOME NEEDED**

At that time a move to different quarters began to be agitated. With the normal increases in rent and other expenses in hired quarters the members of Rockabema, as well as other branches of the order, began to feel the need of quarters of their own.

At various times different properties in the town were discussed as possible locations for an Odd Fellows home but no action developed. When 1940 rolled around, the price of property in Houlton was not at its highest and the time to purchase seemed propitious.

It became known among the members that the commodious Frederick A. Powers property on Main street might be purchased. When this fact was confirmed, a special meeting was called on July 23, 1940 and the project was discussed at some length. A committee was appointed to examine the prospect of acquiring a new home.

**COMMITTEE MOVES QUICKLY**

The committee moved without delay. Three days later they were back with the answer and, at a meeting on July 26, the lodge voted to authorize the committee to purchase the F. A. Powers home to be converted into a new Odd Fellows home.

An interesting sidelight on this transaction is that the building

**TO THE TOWN OF HOULTON**

. . . . on the attainment of 150 years of proud history and of distinguished service to our great County of Aroostook and to the entire State of Maine; may your future contributions be even greater than those of your distinguished past.

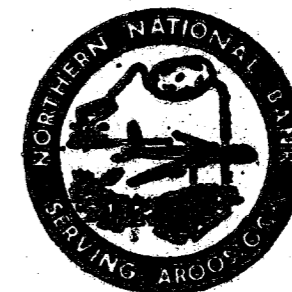
**TO THE HOULTON PIONEER TIMES**

. . . . on the completion of your first century of vigorous and enlightened leadership among the people of your area and on your achievements throughout Maine and elsewhere that have reflected great credit on your home community.

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