Bethinking of Old Orleans

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HOME TALENT

Ninety years ago almost every small hamlet or community had a social organization or two. The Good Templars Lodge was a temperance organization dedicated to abolishing alcoholic beverages. There were many of these lodges sprinkled throughout the rural communities of Orleans County. Along with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, these organizations helped lobby for prohibition. However, such groups as the Good Templars acted as a kind of recreational institution for its members. Putting on plays for entertainment to raise money was a common activity. The hamlet of Gaines was no exception, as we see here a program for such home talent. And just imagine, they were making a healthy profit at 10¢ a seat.

The Good Templars Hall stood on the south side of Ridge Road and occupied the top floor of a building which also housed the Post Office and a grocery store. The building burned in 1910 and was rebuilt by H. Clure White. The accompanying photo shows the cast of characters from a home talent play of the same time frame from Gaines or Carlton.

The Deacon!

Good Templar's Hall, Gaines,

Friday & Saturday Eve.

MARCH 9-10.

CAST.

Deacon Thornton, { Mrs. Thornton's brother-in-law, with a passion for lemonade with a stick in it } .....M. A. Reed
George Graef, Mrs. Thornton's nephew.....Chas. Lattin
George Darrah, alias Matt Wheeler.....E. A. Hewitt
James Reed, a friend of Darrah's.....
Pedro, an organ grinder.....
Parson Brownlow.....A. R. Hutchinson
Pete, Mrs. Thornton's servant.....J. M. Spaulding
Billy, the Deacon's boy.....C. M. Chester
Mrs. Thornton.....Edith Parker
Helen, her daughter.....M. Josephine Palmer
Miss Amelia Fawcett, Mrs. Thornton's maiden sister.....Louise D. Lattin
Mrs. Darrah, George Darrah's wife.....Sadie Fuller
Nellie, her child.....Winnie Whalen
Daisey, Mrs. Thornton's servant.....Lottie Boventzer

Violinist, Policeman, Villagers, by Lodge.

Time of Representation—2½ hours. Time, the present. Locality, Eastville, Va.

SYNOPSIS.

ACT I—Scene—Eastville Hotel garden.
ACT II—Scene—Mrs. Thornton's Sitting Room.
ACT III—Scene 1—A street. Scene 2—George Graef's Lodgings. Scene 3—A Street. Scene 4—A wood. Treasure Hunters.
ACT IV-V—Scene—Mrs. Thornton's Sitting Room.

Admission, 10 cents.
Reserved Seats, 20 cents.