



Fraternal associations — 1879

2-17-11

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In the 1879 Illustrated Historical Album of Orleans County, a number of fraternal organizations are listed in the Village of Albion. Many of these groups went by the wayside years ago and are now long forgotten. Such organizations were at one time very popular in the social structure for many people.

First in the listing, however, is the only group which still exists. It is the Renovation Lodge No. 97, which was instituted March 20, 1844. This Lodge once met in Medina between 1840 and 1849, but they eventually relocated in Albion. It is noted that the Lodge met on the Monday preceding the full moon in each month.

The Albion Lodge No. 58 of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was established March 13, 1846. This group originally met in Swans Block at the corner of Main and West Bank Street. In 1879 they reported 125 members. By the early 20th century, they had several hundred members. Our photo shows members of No. 58 in a pageant scene.

The Ladies Union Charitable Society was formed in the autumn of 1864. This group was established because of the terrible distress caused by the Civil War in many soldiers' families. It was a charitable society to contribute relief to war-stricken people.

The Philalbionian Society was formed in 1867, with the object of benevolence and intelligent amusement. The group met for social conversations, reading, speaking, charades, music and pantomime.

The Albion Rifle and Sportsmen's Club was established in 1872. This organization was part of the State Association that held regular state shoots. I'm guessing they were shooting passenger pigeons at the time. They noted an average membership of 15.

The Albion Library Association was established in 1873 with intent to operate a circulating library, a reading room and lectures. It was noted that shares in the association would be sold for \$10 each with the whole reaching \$5,000. Rooms were rented in a downtown block and this library opened in August 1873. It should be noted that

this was one of the forerunners to the Swan Library.

The Patrons of Husbandry Grange No. 23 was established in November 1873 with 35 persons. They met in Bordwells Block and were reported to be in flourishing condition in 1879.

Ancient Order of United Workmen Albion Lodge No. 67 was established in February 1877. This was not unlike the Masons or Odd Fellows in nature.

The Albion Council of Royal Templars of Temperance was organized in January 1878. This group, like the Ancient Order of United Workmen, created a beneficiary fund payable on the death of a member.

Sovereigns of Industry was instituted in June 1878. The object was to be "the gathering together of the laboring or industrial classes without regard to race, sex, color or nation-

ality for mutual protection and assistance and general improvement, mentally, physically, morally, socially and financially, by and through the practical application of the principal of co-operation."

The Albion Academy Association was founded in

1878, which later became the Alumni of Albion Academy. The purpose was bringing together an annual social reunion of former students.

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