

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

A FAMILY FRATERNITY

*Striving to make the world
a better place in which to live.*

MOTTO

'Friendship, Love and Truth'

OBJECTIVE

*'To Improve and Elevate
the Character of Mankind'*



The Three Links

The Emblem of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The emblem of Odd Fellowship is the Three Links with the letters 'F, L & T'. The three links symbolizes the chain that binds our members together and illustrates that a fraternity is strongest when joined together.

'F' the first link represents *'friendship'*, the strongest bond of fraternity, that teaches good-will and harmony.

'L' the second link represents *'love'*, the basis for all life's ambitions, service to others and family.

'T' the third link represents *'truth'*, the standard by which we value people, and the foundation of our society.



For more information:

(508) 852-7702

www.massioof.org

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Membership Application



Odd Fellows

Rebekah

Encampment

Ladies Encampment Auxiliary

Patriarchs Militant

Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant

A Family Fraternity



Jurisdiction of Massachusetts

Massachusetts Lodge No. 1
Self-Instituted March 26, 1820

Grand Lodge - Instituted 1823
Grand Encampment - Instituted 1844
Patriarchs Militant - Instituted 1885
Rebekah Assembly - Instituted 1898

United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth

Each summer since 1949, Odd Fellows of Massachusetts have sponsored a one week tour of New York City and the United Nations for high school students across our state. These students get a once in a lifetime education of global government in action.

Arthritis Foundation

Actively involved in raising funds for the Arthritis Foundation, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Massachusetts have received recognition for raising hundreds of thousands of dollars through efforts and events each year, such as the Arthritis Ball - Arthritis Mini Grand Prix - Orrin J. Eaton Memorial Golf Tournament - Arthritis Walk-A-Thon.

Scholarships

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Massachusetts sponsor many scholarships to deserving students of Massachusetts in amounts exceeding \$20,000 annually.

Nursing Home

Odd Fellows Nursing Home of Worcester was established in 1892 and is dedicated to long term and rehabilitative care of our elderly. Long recognized for excellence in caring for our residents.

D.A.R.E. Programs

Odd Fellows and Rebekah lodges are actively supporting many local D.A.R.E. programs throughout Massachusetts.

The Origin of Odd Fellowship in North America

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows as we know it today began in Baltimore, Maryland, where five members of the Order from England founded Washington Lodge No. 1 on April 26, 1819, by self-institution. That first meeting was held in the Sevens Stars Tavern.



One of these Brothers was Thomas Wildey, the first Noble Grand and the man revered as the founder of Odd Fellowship in North America. A charter was received from Duke of York Lodge in Preston, England, in 1820, a year and a half after its self-institution.

In 1821, the "Grand Lodge of Maryland and of the United States of America, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows," was founded. Brother Wildey also served as the first Grand Master/Grand Sire of the first Grand Lodge, for a period of 12 years. Several more lodges were established, and in 1824, the "Grand Lodge of the United States" now termed "The Sovereign Grand Lodge," was separated from the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows in North America (United States and Canada) became independent from the Order in England in 1834.

In modern times the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs have been in the forefront of nearly all organizations in helping to make this world a better place in which to live. Odd Fellowship is a family fraternity with activities and programs for every member of the family.



WHY THE NAME ODD FELLOWS?

There are several different reasons given for our unique name. One old and apparently authoritative history of Odd Fellowship gives the explanation, "That common laboring men should associate themselves together and form a fraternity for social unity and fellowship and for mutual help was such a marked violation of the trends of the times (England in the 1700's) that they became known as 'peculiar' or 'odd,' and hence they were derided as 'Odd Fellows.' Because of the appropriateness of the name, those engaged in forming these unions accepted it. When legally incorporated the title 'Odd Fellows' was adopted."

Another, similar explanation is that the original Odd Fellows were men who were engaged in various or odd trades, as there were organizations for some of the larger trades.

Modern references state that the true reason for the name Odd Fellows isn't known or documented.

THE REBEKAH DEGREE

The Degree of Rebekah was founded on September 20, 1851. The author and founder of the Rebekah Degree was our beloved brother Schuyler Colfax. In 1867, the Grand Sire recommended that the Degree be recognized as one of the Degrees of Odd Fellowship with the right to confer the Degrees on others, with a Code of Uniform Laws and the right to elect its own officers and members.

In 1884, the Rebekah Lodges were permitted to send delegates to a State Convention, Assembly or Grand Lodge for the purpose of promoting the interest of the Degree of Rebekah. It was not until 1886 that the conferring of the Rebekah Degree was discontinued in the Odd Fellows Lodge.

The first National Convention of the Degree of Rebekah was held in Columbus, Ohio, September 17, 18, 19, 20, 1889. The International Association of Rebekah Assemblies was founded in 1922 at Detroit, Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts

Dated _____, 20____

Application Fee: _____

I, _____:
(Name - PLEASE PRINT)

apply to the members of _____ No. _____ of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts; for membership by: [(circle one) Initiation - Transfer - Card] and agree to abide by the rules, regulations and teachings of the Order. I understand my rights as a member are protected by the laws of the Order and agree NOT to resort to the civil courts for their enforcement. I believe in a Supreme Being and am loyal to my country.

I was born at _____ on the _____ day of _____, _____ year
(city / town / state) day month year

My Occupation is _____

Employer _____

Residence _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____

Spouse _____



Applicant's Signature _____

Sponsor: _____
(Name) (Lodge, Encampment, Auxiliary, Canton - Name & Number)

We certify that the applicant meets the qualifications for membership in this lodge.

Interviewing Committee:

I certify that _____
is a member of _____ Degree
in good standing in _____ No. _____

Attest: _____
(Secretary/Scribe)

Application processed _____

Application Voted _____

[seal]