

Peter Lawrence Odell, “Grand Old Man of Summit”

Peter was born in Summit, NY on July 21, 1844 to Lawrence and Harriet (Baldwin) Odell. Helen Ferguson became his wife in 1868, and to the best of my knowledge no children were born to them. He was the owner and proprietor of the Lake View House boarding house/hotel from 1880 until the time of his death in 1935. As the story goes, the Lake View came to be due to the overflow of boarders from the Crowes Nest boarding house across the street. When Peter was 60 years old his two story Lake View House burned and he promptly built another one with a third floor. Peter's health and community activity deteriorated following the death of his wife August 25, 1926. He was a Mason for almost 69 years when he died, and was buried, in Summit March 16, 1935.

Peter was a charter member of Working Lodge No. 554 F. & A.M. Jefferson, NY. He was initiated July 26, Passed August 11 and Raised August 23, 1866. In 1918 the Masons gave him a beautiful cane, I'm suspecting this was a gift for his 75th birthday.

On Monday night August 23, 1926 Masons from all around the area met at the Lake View House at 8PM to give Brother Peter Odell a surprise party in honor of his 60 year anniversary in the Masons. The Working Lodge of Jefferson coordinated the gathering and had the participants meet in front of the Dingman House (Summit House/Hotel on Rte.10). The majority of the delegations came from Troy, Schenectady, Sharon Springs, Cobleskill and Richmondville. The Jefferson Band led the partiers about 800 feet down the road to the Lake View. From the August 25, 1926 Stamford Mirror-Recorder – “The affair was well organized as everything Jeffersonian always is. In a jiffy an outdoor lighting system was hooked on, chairs were placed for the band, a piano was brought out on the porch and the festivities began with the band leading America.” Numerous Masters and Past Masters, Mrs. Odell (who died a couple of days later) and his brother, and fellow Mason, Dr. Herbert L. Odell of Sharon Springs were introduced and some addressed the crowd of about 200.

R.W. and Hon. Charles/Chas. E. Nichols of Cobleskill, Justice of the Supreme Court and the senior living Past Master of Working Lodge paid Peter a fine tribute and presented him with a loving cup. The inscription read: 1866-1926, Presented

to Brother Peter L. Odell on the sixtieth anniversary of his membership in Working Lodge No. 554, F & A.M., Jefferson, NY, With fraternal regards of the Fellow Members, August 23, 1926. Following the presentation Peter recounted his progress in Masonry which had its inception while he was fishing on the Housatonic River in 1865. The evening closed with refreshments while a bright moon smiled a benediction upon Peter and his good wife.

The loving cup, cane, apron and assorted documents were donated to the Town of Summit via Karen Cuccinello by Peter Martin, Peter Odell's great nephew.



The 1st Lakeview House probably around 1900, cottage to the right was also rented out and alcohol was consumed, at times, in the barn in the middle. Photo from Kathleen Denvir



20—"Lakeview", Summit Lake, Summit, N. Y.



Sixty Years in Masonry, Peter L. Odell Gets Schoharie County Loving Cup

200 Witness Presentation
by Working Lodge at
Jefferson.

Justice Nichols Bestows
Testimonial; W. J. Baker
of Albany Speaks.

SUMMIT, Aug. 23.—Peter L. Odell was presented with a loving cup Monday night by members of Working lodge at Jefferson, the occasion marking the sixtieth anniversary of his Masonic affiliation with the lodge which made him a master Mason August 23, 1866.

More than 200 from Jefferson lodge and craftsmen from surrounding communities joined in honoring Schoharie county's distinguished Mason whose service in years is unequalled by any other member of the order in the county.

The testimonial was given at Lake View house, a summer resort hotel owned by Mr. Odell. Patrons participated.

Presentation of the cup was made by Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Nichols of Cobleskill, a member of the Jefferson lodge. Addresses were made by William I. Baker of Albany, past master of Ancient City lodge and president of the Albany Hardware and Iron



PETER L. ODELL

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company, a boyhood chum of Mr. Odell; the Rev. William Comstalk of Stamford, the Rev. F. R. Edwards of Jefferson. Others introduced were Mr. Wolf of Troy. Dr. H. L. Odell of Sharon Springs, George E. Fake and Assemblyman Kenneth Fake of Cobleskill, George Lamont of Hobart and C. P. Faber of Jefferson.

The Jefferson band played on the hotel lawn.

**Peter Martin about age 10 & Peter O'Dell
about age 90 about 1933 by the Lakeview
House, Photo from Peter Martin**

