

GREAT ORDER GROWS FROM HUMBLE ORIGIN



Charles A. Vivian, *Founder of The Jolly Corks*, From which grew the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. George J. Green, *New York, First Grand Exalted Ruler, 1870-1871*. Chas. E. Davies, *Chicago, 1879-1880*. Edward A. Ferry, *Boston, 1885-1886*. William E. English, *Indianapolis, 1886-1887*. Edwin S. Hoy, *Wash. D. C., 1891-1893, 1894-1895*. Astley Apperly, *Louisville, 1893-1894*. William C. Meyers, *Philadelphia, 1895-1896*.



Meade D. Detweiler, *Harrisburg, Pa., 1896-1898*. John Calvin Cincinnati, *1898-1899*. Basil H. Allen, *Birmingham, Ala., 1899-1900*. Jerome B. Fisher, *Jamesburg, N.J., 1900-1901*. Chas. E. Pickett, *Waterloo, Ia., 1901-1902*. Geo. P. Cronk, *Omaha, 1902-1903*. Joseph T. Fanning, *Indianapolis, 1903-1904*. William T. O'Brien, Jr., *Baltimore, 1904-1905*.



Robert W. Brown, *Louisville, 1905-1906*. Henry A. Meyer, *Oakland, 1906-1907*. John K. Tener, *Charleston, Pa., 1907-1908*. Rush L. Holland, *Colorado Springs, 1908-1909*. James U. Semmes, *Le Mars, Ia., 1909-1910*. August Herrmann, *Cincinnati, 1910-1911*. John P. Sullivan, *New Orleans, 1911-1912*.

HISTORY regarding the early career of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is not exactly clear and many points are in doubt, especially those relating to the transitory stage from the original "Jolly Corks" to the organization of which New York Lodge No. 1 is the successor.

That Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, a talented actor of English birth, was the founder of the present Order of Elks is the generally accepted theory among lodge members, but historians of the organization do not agree on that point. They all accept Vivian as the organizer of a club or society composed of actors and known by them as the "Jolly Corks," but some authorities declare that Vivian was not the founder of the Elks.

It is agreed, however, that the Elks were the logical successors of the Jolly Corks, and whether Vivian was or was not the founder of the popular organization which begins its annual sessions in Portland this week is probably a matter of personal opinion, as the question would have to be decided on a technicality.

"Corks" Meet First in 1867.
The Jolly Corks, according to the published account written by George W. Thompson, first exalted ruler of New York Lodge, had their beginning in the winter of 1867, holding their meetings on Sunday evenings in a frame building, 17 Delancey street, over the saloon of Paul Sommers, near the Bowery, in the City of New York.

Vivian was the leader of this merry crowd. He was the chairman. Other members were: John T. Kent, W. Lloyd Bowron, Harry Bosworth, E. W. Platt, Richard R. Steirly, George F. McDonald, M. G. Ashe, J. G. Wilton, Thomas G. Riggs, William Sheppard, William Carleton, Frank Langhorn, John H. Blume and Harry Vandemark. Of these Langhorn, Bowron and Platt are still living.

All these men as well as nearly everyone who affiliated with the Jolly Corks were actors or journalists, or in various ways connected with the stage or the newspaper profession. Their organization grew into popularity and rapidly increased in membership. Larger quarters were secured and a change in name for the organization invited. In all these activities Vivian according to best authorities, was one of the moving spirits. In England,

where he lived before coming to America, he had been connected with an organization known as the Buffaloes, and this name was suggested. It was discarded, however, and after a careful search of the various other animals in the category the name "Elk" was adopted.

Committee Hunts for Name.
Accounts vary as to how the order came to be called "Elk." One theory has it that a committee of "Corks" assigned to find a new name went to Barnum's museum, where they studied the various animals on exhibition. All others met with some objections until they came to the elk, with its graceful antlers, its timidity, its gentleness and its readiness to protect others of its kind in time of danger.

In his history of the origin of the order, Thompson gives the following version of how the name came to be adopted: "Finally Brother Thomas G. Riggs, who was born on Elk street, in Buffalo, hit upon the name Elk, and on again visiting Cooper Union, we found in Goldsmith's 'Animated Nature' a description of the animal, which Brother McDonald afterwards utilized in the lecture."

On February 16, 1868, the name was changed to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, its present form. A committee on constitution was appointed and drafted a form of laws, the outline of which remains the basis of Elk jurisprudence today.

Vivian Elected to Highest Office.
Vivian was elected "right honorable primo" of the new organization, a position corresponding to that of the exalted ruler in the present-day lodge. There were three "deputies," corresponding to the three chairs of today. A recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer and a tyler completed the list of officers.

It is a matter of record that Vivian presided at but one or two meetings of the new organization, professional engagements at Philadelphia or in Pittsburgh detaining him.

Vivian, however, is credited with composing some of the principal parts of the early-day ritual. The new ritual was adopted May 27, 1868, but Vivian, it seems, was not present at that meeting, still being absent with a professional company, of which he was a member. The others who had been members of the "Jolly Corks" were present and were obligated. Vivian still held the office of "Right Honorable Primo," but to use Thompson's account, "he had been written to frequently, asking him to be present and take the degrees, but no reply was received." Consequently when the election took place, Brother George W. Thompson was elected exalted ruler and right honorable primo.

Elks Give Their First Ball.
On Jan. 8, 1868, the newly organized Elks gave a ball at the Academy of Music in Fourteenth street, New York. Vivian returned from Philadelphia in time to attend this function, but those who had the affair in charge had not made provision for his presence, inasmuch as he had not become an obligated Elk. A week later he applied for initiation in the regular manner, but was rejected. From that time he never again was connected with the order.

Vivian died March 20, 1880, at Leadville, Colo., where he had conducted a variety theater. His body was interred there, but early in 1883 it was exhumed and placed in the Elks' Rest, Mount Hope Cemetery, Boston, where a substantial monument has been erected to his memory. On the great copper plate, embedded in one side of it, appears these words: "Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, Founder of the Order of Elks—a lover of his kind, who founded a great order and by so doing wrought much good."

Although some historians, among them Thompson, refuse to give Vivian credit for founding the order, the late Meade D. Detweiler, when he was last

exalted ruler, wrote what is considered a very authentic history, in which he used the following words: "I regard as forever settled, beyond any cavil or question the fact that Brother Vivian is the man to whom belongs the honorable title of 'Founder of the Elks,' inasmuch as the suggestion of perpetuity was made by him and which I believe will be fully demonstrated by a careful perusal of this brief epitome of the various steps of evolution accompanying the institution of an order of which we are proud to be members."

Elks Say Vivian Is Founder.
Charles Edward Ellis, of Chicago, a recent historian, does not seem to doubt the reliability of the claim made by Vivian's friends that he was the founder of the order. In recent years efforts have been made to have Vivian's name placed on the roster along with those of the early members of the original lodge, but have failed. Some grand lodge members predict that eventually this will be done.

For nearly three years following the transition of the Jolly Corks into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks the organization thrived as a club or society in itself. The idea of spreading out and establishing branches in the various other cities did not suggest itself until early in 1871. It is probable that on account of the nomadic life led by many of the members, nearly all of whom were actors, the necessity of having branches in the various other cities became manifest.

Meetings of the New York lodge were held at irregular intervals in Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and other cities in which actors were likely to gather in large numbers. Requested requests were made of the society in New York for the organization of branch lodges. As the order in New York was incorporated in that state, it could not be given authority to establish branches in other states. Accordingly the New York lodge surrendered its rights as a supreme body and a new application was made to the state for a grand lodge charter. As many newspaper men then, as now, were connected with the order, they secured the consent of the Legislature on March 10, 1871. The grand lodge then issued a charter to the old organization, which became known as New York Lodge, No. 1. Soon thereafter a charter issued to Philadelphia Lodge. The first meeting of the grand lodge, as such, was held in New York two days following the granting of the charter by the Legislature. George J. Green was elected the presiding officer and therefore became the first grand exalted ruler.

San Francisco Chartered in 1876.
It was not until 1876 that a charter was granted for the organization of a lodge in San Francisco. It was about this time that Henry P. O'Neill, who was prominently identified with the order, was a man of peculiar talents and introduced numerous original features that have assisted to make Elksdom popular. He wrote a new set of laws, which today remain the basis of the Elk government. Chicago Lodge, No. 4, was instituted while he was in power. From that time the order grew steadily.

At this time Arthur C. Moreland, the veteran editor of the *Elks Antler*, of New York, served as grand secretary and did much to place that office on a business basis. He also assisted in revising the ritual and introduced many of the features that are popular today. It is with regret that many Elks learn of his inability to attend the Portland convention.

Continued growth and prosperity blessed the organization until 1890, when the first attempt was made to hold a grand lodge session outside the City of New York. The grand lodge convened in Cleveland, O., and the New York members rebelled. It seems that the organization, which originally had been composed of actors and newspaper men almost exclusively, now was dominated by business men, who wanted to make the grand lodge migratory.

A rival convention, attended by members of various Eastern lodges, was held in New York and for a time a disruption was threatened. The Cleveland convention won its contention, however, and that makes possible the grand lodge meeting in Portland this week. Three years later the New York lodge was restored to good standing in the order.

Two Conventions Are Held.
It was only the following year, however, when further difficulties threatened the order. Through a misunderstanding between the grand trustees

on one hand and the grand exalted ruler and grand secretary on the other, two sessions of the grand lodge were scheduled for the summer of 1894—the one at Jamestown, N. Y., and the other at Atlantic City, N. J. It seems, however, that the Atlantic City meeting, which was sanctioned by the trustees, has become recognized as the official session. The same place was selected for the 1895 meeting, with the adherents of the Jamestown convention still refusing to attend. The following year—1896—witnessed a reunion of both branches at Cincinnati and since then all has been peace and harmony in the organization. To Meade D. Detweiler, who began his term as grand exalted ruler the following year, is given much of the credit due to the successful adjustment of the differences between the two factions.

In the following years the order advanced steadily its present plan of substantiality and popularity that makes it the pride and source of delight and happiness to each of its 355,000 members.

VIVIAN KNOWN IN ROSEBURG
Pioneers of Lane County Recall Winter He Spent With Them.

Pioneers of Roseburg and other parts of Lane County have a peculiar interest in the present grand lodge convention by reason of the fact that they cherished an intimate acquaintance with Charles A. S. Vivian, the reputed founder of the order. Vivian spent the greater part of the winter of 1873 in Roseburg, and although at that time he was not actively connected with the New York lodge, which he had been instrumental in starting, he is said to have practiced in every day life those precepts which modern Elksdom exemplifies.

L. F. Lane, one of the early day residents of Lane County, was a very intimate friend of Mr. Vivian and a strong mutual admiration existed between them. There are many persons living in Roseburg today who recall Vivian's visit to that city and his many pleasing traits of character.

SAN FRANCISCO ELKS, OUT FOR 1915 REUNION, PREPARE TO INVAD CITY



J. H. Harbour, Lewis F. Byington, William M. Abbott, S. A. White.



George G. Fraser, P. J. Lynch, W. W. Webster, Harry Callin.



W. J. Boyd, N. Dennis, Alex. F. Williams.

SAN FRANCISCO Elks will come to Portland 250 strong to wage a campaign for the reunion, the year of the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The party is headed by Louis T. Byington, who is chairman of the Portland committee of the San Francisco lodge. J. H. Harbour, whose term as

exalted ruler expired this year, is the official delegate to the local convention and will waste no time in letting his fellow Elks know that his city is a contestant for the 1915 honor. W. B. Fraser is chairman of the publicity committee. W. Webster, chairman of the committee on transportation; S. A. White, chairman of the com-

mittee on uniforms and badges. P. J. Lynch is vice-chairman of the Portland committee, and Harry Callin, chairman of the conference committee. Among the prominent members of the San Francisco lodge who have been active in the preliminary campaign are: W. J. Boyd, William M. Abbott, N. Dennis and Alex. F. Williams.

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"POET OF SIERRAS" PAYS TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN'S MEMORY.
On the occasion of the death of Charles A. S. Vivian, reputed founder of the Elks, Joaquin Miller, the "poet of the Sierras," wrote the following verses:

In Memoriam.
Who makes two blades of grass to grow,
Two blades of grass where grew but one,
Is greater than Napoleon,
Or he who wrought his overthrow,
And chained his chafing soul in thrall,
But he who plucks up wrinkled care
And plants a smile of pleasure there
Lives in Roseburg today who recall
Vivian's visit to that city and his many
pleasing traits of character.

I count this sunny, loving boy,
This laughing Vivian who drew
All hearts to his, because he knew
The curse of care, the pay of joy,
The patron saint of chastened pride,
To babe or mother, young or old,
His hands were as hands full of gold,
A smile for all, a tear for all,
He never caused one tear to fall,
Save when he bowed his head and died.

CITIES IN WHICH THE GRAND LODGE HAS MET.

- With the exception of the session of 1877, which was held in Philadelphia, the grand lodge from the date of its organization in 1871 met annually in New York City until 1890, after which it migrated as follows:
- 1890—Cleveland, O.
- 1891—Louisville, Ky.
- 1892—Buffalo, N. Y.
- 1893—Detroit, Mich.
- 1894—Atlantic City, N. J.
- 1895—Atlantic City, N. J.
- 1896—Cincinnati, O.
- 1897—Minneapolis, Minn.
- 1898—New Orleans, La.
- 1899—St. Louis, Mo.
- 1900—Atlantic City, N. J.
- 1901—Milwaukee, Wis.
- 1902—Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 1903—Baltimore, Md.
- 1904—Cincinnati, O.
- 1905—Buffalo, N. Y.
- 1906—Denver, Colo.
- 1907—Philadelphia, Pa.
- 1908—Dallas, Tex.
- 1909—Los Angeles, Cal.
- 1910—Detroit, Mich.
- 1911—Atlantic City, N. J.
- 1912—Portland, Or.