

Starke County, Names of Members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Daughters of Rebekah Extracted from the *North Judson News*, 1897–1902

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During the nineteenth century, fraternal organizations were popular for men who wanted to spend time with other like-minded men. One such organization, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was first chartered in Maryland in 1819 and reached the Midwest sometime thereafter. The Odd Fellows' motto was "Friendship, Love, and Truth," and the group's teachings focused on helping members during times of sickness or hardship. According to the organization's Web site, the group was called the Odd Fellows because it was odd to see men coming together for the purpose of helping those in need, despite the fact that most of these fraternal groups, such as the Masons and the Grand Army of the Republic, who were founded on similar benevolent principles of brotherhood with a focus on community outreach.

In 1851 the Odd Fellows became the first fraternal organization to admit women as members. The women were known as the Daughters of Rebekah, or simply the Rebekahs, and had their own meetings and officials. Today, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs have nearly ten thousand lodges around the world.¹

The following announcements were published in the *North Judson News* from January 7, 1897, to January 9, 1902. They include the names of members and the offices to which they were elected, except the announcement from January 21, 1897, which only lists members' names. Each announcement is transcribed exactly as it appears in the original newspaper.²

Notes

1. "About us," The Sovereign Grand Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows, <http://www.ioof.org/aboutus.html>.

2. *North Judson News*: January 7, 1897; January 21, 1897; January 6, 1898; January 12, 1899; January 4, 1900; January 3, 1901; January 9, 1902. Accessed via microfilm from the Indiana State Library.

**Names of Members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Daughters of Rebekah
Extracted from the *North Judson News*, 1897–1902**

January 7, 1897

Following are the officers elected by the Odd Fellows at their regular meeting last Thursday evening: George Lawrence, Noble Grand; Fred Kasch, vice-Grand, H. E. White, permanent secretary; Ba[i]ley Lightcap, corresponding secretary; Christ. Sautter, treasurer; Frank Reiser, Fred Gering and Otto Altmann, trustees. Several minor offices are to be filled by appointment.

January 21, 1897

A bunch of “Bekahs” from this place went to Winamac last night to attend a big meeting of the order there. In the party were, Mesdames Reiser, Baker, New, J[ar]rett, Doane, Hecox, Jones, S[?]ulis and Mr. Doane. It is useless to add that they had a pleasant time.

January 6, 1898

Last Thursday evening the Odd Fellows elected the following officers which will be installed tonight:

Fred Garing, Noble Grand.

Gus Long, Vice Grand.

W. H. Spellman, Recording Secretary.

H. E. White, Financial Secretary.

Christ Sautter, Treasurer.

Frank Reiser, Otto Altman and Fred Garing, Trustees.

Charity Degree lodge No. 419, Daughters of Rebekah, is officered as follows:

Mary Welsh, Noble Grand.

Maggie Rhodes, Vice Grand.

Abbie Doyle, Secretary.

George Lawrence, Permanent Secretary.

Hannah Jarrett, Treasurer.

January 12, 1899

At the Odd Fellows’ hall last Thursday night the following new officers were installed: W. D. Wattles, noble grand; W. H. Spellman, vice-grand; W. E. Munchenburg, recording secretary; Fred Garing, financial secretary; Chris Sautter, treasurer; Fred Kasch, warden; C. H. Kuester, conductor; G. W. Lawrence, outer guard; Emanuel Eberhart, inner guard; Lew Foust, Emanuel Eberhart and Sherman Carnes, trustees.

The Daughters of Rebekah have chosen new officers for the present year, as follows: Mrs. Bryant, noble grand; Mrs. Riggle, vice-grand; Fred Kasch, recording and financial secretary; May Lawrence, treasurer.

January 4, 1900

The Odd Fellows have chosen the following new officers for present year: John Meyers, noble grand; Cy Hecox, vice-grand; Emanuel Eberhart, secretary; G. W. Lawrence, financial secretary; Chris Sautter, treasurer, and James Jarrett, trustee.

The Daughters of Rebekah elected new officers Saturday evening, which will be installed next Saturday evening by Esther Hecox, installing officer. They are: Mrs. Hannah Jarrett, noble grand; Miss Lotie Foust, vice-grand; Fred Kasch, financial secretary; Miss Mary Kasch, treasurer.

January 3, 1901

The Odd Fellows have elected the following new officers: Emanuel Eberhart, noble grand; Lem Lower, vice-grand; George Lawrence, secretary; L. C. Foust, recording secretary; James Jarrett, treasurer.

The Rebekahs have chosen new officers as follows: Lotie Foust, noble grand; Lillian Strong, vice-grand; George Lawrence, secretary; Catherine Reiser, treasurer.

January 9, 1902

The following officers for the Odd Fellows were installed last Thursday night, Fred Kasch, noble grand; George Wilson, vice-grand; Fred Garing, recording secretary; G. W. Lawrence, financial secretary; Chris Sautter, treasurer.

The Daughters of Rebekah installed new officers Saturday night as follows: Mrs. Garing, noble grand; Mrs. Kasch, vice-grand; G. W. Lawrence, secretary; Mrs. Eberhart, treasurer.

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