

# The New Mexico Rebekah Reporter

Editor, Barbara Corfield DDARA

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## April 26, 1819–April 26, 2013 194 years strong!!!!

### Thomas Wildey



Thomas Wildey was born in London, England, in 1782. He was left an orphan five years later - and the IOOF pledge to "Educate the Orphan" sprang from his personal childhood experiences. At the age of 14, Wildey went to live with an uncle. After he had 9 years of schooling, he became an apprentice to a maker of coach springs. He joined the British Odd Fellows in 1804. When Wildey emigrated to America in 1817, the British were still unpopular in the States because of the War of 1812. In that year Baltimore was suffering both a yellow fever epidemic and mass unemployment. An outgoing personality, Wildey missed companionship and advertised in the newspaper to determine if there were any other Odd Fellows in Baltimore; he requested them to meet him at the Seven Stars Inn. On April 26, 1819, Wildey and the four men who responded to the advertisement, John Welch, John Duncan, John Cheatam, and Richard Rushworth, formed the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in North America, dedicating the Order to achieve philanthropic goals.



### 1782-1861

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Thomas Wildey became the order's first presiding officer and worked tirelessly to expand the group. His only occupation after 1819 was the Odd Fellows, and he sank great portions of his own money into the project. The other men involved in the early stages of the IOOF were certainly more literate and eloquent, but the frequently overbearing Wildey and his unyielding enthusiasm point to him as the body's true founding father. He relinquished his leadership post in 1825, yet continued to work for his cause until his last breath. Traveling from town to town, Wildey established Odd Fellows Lodges in practically every state incorporated at the time. He died in 1861 and is buried in Green Mount Cemetery. At the time of his death in 1861, there were more than 200,000 members of the IOOF in 42 states. In the late 19th century and early 20th century the IOOF became the largest Fraternal Order in North America with more than two million members.

In 1865, a monument was erected in his memory. The site for this monument was unanimously voted by the Mayor and City of Baltimore. This column erected by the joint contributions of the lodges, encampments and individual members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the United States of American, commemorates the founding of the Order in the City of Baltimore on the 26th day of April 1819 by Thomas Wildey.



# Membership..... the Way it Used to Be!!

*The following article was printed in the "Gallup Independent" recently and brought to me by Sam Florence PGM and Margaret Burnworth PG who live in Gallup, NM, 140 miles, one way, from Albuquerque, but belong to Harmony #1 in Albuquerque since there is no longer a lodge in Gallup. They make the round trip for every lodge meeting.*

## Back When

By Bill Donovan , Independent Correspondent

**April 23, 1894**

The biggest club in town, by far, in the Order of Odd Fellows and the reason is simple: It all has to do with **sex**.

Of course in those days, sex was very puritanical, but Gallup was growing by leaps and bounds and one of the biggest problems was the number of men who were looking —with little success— for a wife.

The Gallup Gleaner, one of the early papers in Gallup, addressed this issue by pointing out that the "best people" in Gallup, who numbered about 400 all belonged to the Odd Fellows Club.

"It is generally acknowledged throughout New Mexico that Gallup possesses the prettiest women in the territory" a writer for the Gleaner wrote.

The article said that you couldn't pay women living the Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas and other New Mexico cities enough to participate in a beauty contest against the women in Gallup because they knew they couldn't win.

"The ladies of the Carbon City know they are handsome," the article said. "they are young, educated and refined; naturally sociable as becomes the best elements of society."

The article also points out that most women in Gallup are married and the few ladies who are single happen to be daughters or sisters of the members of the Odd Fellows Club, which is why if you are single and want to meet a single girl, practically the only way it could be done is by being a member of the club and going to the club's frequent dances.

The writer for the Gleaner said he hit upon the reason why these single ladies looked so willowy and attractive — it was because of all the Odd Fellow dances.

The Odd Fellows women were so popular that they had their choice of men when it came to deciding who they wanted to dance with so all of them could be seen dancing the night away at all the club events.

"An earlier article estimated that if one were to dance all the dances on the program, it would be equivalent to walking eleven and a half miles," the writer for the Gleaner wrote.

*Thanks to Sam and Margaret for this entertaining article of "Back When" from their local newspaper.*

*While I am not proposing that we embrace the "Back When" activities, it would be nice to have the recognition that the community had about the lodge in Gallup. It was "THE" place to belong. It was a lodge that "made a difference." Barbara*

*Remembering Others..... , Harless Turner, Sovereign Grand Treasurer is having back surgery next week. Cards can be sent to his home PO Box 191, Glenville, WV 26351. Brother Turner has visited our Grand Lodge sessions several time. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.*

# Membership - The Way it Should be Today!!

## *Make a Difference*

Becoming involved in the community and letting people know who we are and what we stand for is the theme of SGM Charles Renninger this year. What has your lodge done to advertise your activities? Is your lodge hall and grounds clean and an asset to the neighborhood? The only way you can “Make a Difference” is to do SOMETHING. Sitting around lamenting about the “good old days” may be entertaining, but it is not planning and preparing for the future of your lodge and this great Order. Whatever you do to “Make a Difference” is a step in the right direction to secure that something will happen in time to come.

\* \* \* \* \*

## *Promote and “Sell” the Projects of our Order*

One of the advantages everyone has is that we do not have to re-invent the wheel. All we have to do is Promote and Sell the Projects of our Order to talk about membership. Educate your members in what we have to offer—Example:

What does your lodge know about the Educational Foundation?

Established September 20, 1927

Offers low cost loans to qualifying applicants at a 4% interest.

### Scholarships, Scholarships, Scholarships

Ingstrom Trust Scholarship  
 Wirtz Scholarship  
 United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth

Scholarship.

Christine Smith Graduate Studies

Scholarship

Continuing Education Grants  
 Vocational Technology Scholarships  
 Glenn Coursey Agriculture Scholarship

ship

Non-Traditional Scholarship

Information and applications can be accessed on the SGL website. Use this tool to talk to new members about the benefits of belonging.

Does anyone in your lodge know about the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Visual Research? Check out the details on the SGL Website.

Do you know about the United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth? Our own Nita Imel is the Chairman of this committee and would be glad to share information if you have an individual that your lodge would like to sponsor.

You are aware of the Arthritis Program as our Grand Master has chosen this as her project. But—what has your lodge done to support the program financially?

What do you know about the S.O.S Children’s Village and what the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs have done in this area?

What about what is going in in New Mexico? Do your members know the positive, inspiring and exciting things of which we have to be proud?

IOOF Recreation Area—40 acres in the Manzano mountains available for the use of our members and prospective members.

D.D Monroe Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Grand Lodge of NM. A scholarship for a four year university or college. Get the application from the Grand Lodge of NM website— [www.ioofnm.org](http://www.ioofnm.org)

Bettye Miller Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Rebekah Assembly of NM. Scholarship for two, four years or vocational training. Get the application from the Rebekah Assembly website— [www.nmrebekahs.org](http://www.nmrebekahs.org).

Maybe your next lodge meeting should be an educational meeting for your members to learn about our projects so they can talk to prospective members. Need help in planning an educational seminar for your lodge? Contact your Grand Master or Rebekah Assembly President .

**The TOOLS are there—USE THEM!!!!**

**Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly of New Mexico  
Red Lion Hotel – September 26 – 29, 2013  
Farmington**

**All Sessions and planned meals to be held at the  
Red Lion Hotel, 700 Scott Avenue, Farmington, New Mexico 87401  
Phone: 505/327-5221 | Fax: 505/327-1565  
Rooms \$69.99 + tax Mention Oddfellows and Rebekahs meeting**

**Registration Information**

*Deadline for all meals à September 10, 2013*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:/City/Zip : \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Lodge Registration: \$12.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rebekah Assembly Registration \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, Sept 26:** 1:00 pm NM Canton #1 Yes / No (I will or will not attend)

**Thursday, Sept. 26:** 4:30 pm PP Dinner \$ 15.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, Sept 27:**

7:00a GM Barbara/Pres. Doris- Officers/DDP/DDGM Breakfast \$14.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

7:00a Breakfast for everyone \$14.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12:00p Past DDP and DDGM Luncheon Buffet \$16.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

12:00p Open Luncheon Buffet for everyone \$16.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

7:00p Banquet Honoring GM Barbara and Pres. Doris \$25.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Roast Pork Loin or Mexican Plate (please indicate Your Preference)**

**Saturday September 28:**

7:00a Friendship Breakfast Buffet –open to everyone \$14.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

7:00a Past Grand Master’s Breakfast Buffet \$14.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

12:00p Planning Board, Home Board Luncheon Buffet \$16.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

12:00p Open Luncheon Buffet for everyone \$16.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, September 29**

7:00a GM Fred/Pres. Sue Breakfast –Officers/DDP/DDGM \$14.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

7:00 a Breakfast for everyone \$14.50  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total (please attach payment with form) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**One form per person. Make copies as necessary  
Make checks payable to: Hope Rebekah Lodge #12  
Mail to: D’Elva Emert, 2113 Smith Lane, Farmington, NM 87401**

**Mark Your Calendar!**

<b>April 26</b>	<b>194th Anniversary of IOOF</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Make a Difference Day</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Opening of IOOF Recreation Area</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Birthday of Grand Master Barbara Cloud</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>All Scholarship Applications due to SGL</b>
<b>June 28-30</b>	<b>Work weekend at IOOF Recreation Area</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>D.D Monroe Scholarship Application due</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Bettye Miller Scholarship Application due</b>
<b>July 26-28</b>	<b>Annual Picnic &amp; Campout at Recreation Area</b>
<b>August 19-23</b>	<b>SGL/IARA Sessions in Schaumburg, ILL.</b>
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Meal Registration for NM GL/RA due</b>
<b>Sept. 26-29</b>	<b>NM GL/RA Annual Sessions—Farmington</b>

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*Editorial notes from Barb:..... Happy Spring! Finally it is starting to get warm and time to get out of the house and move about outside.*

*You will notice the registration form for our sessions is included earlier this year than in the past. D'Elva tells me that the deadlines must be met so you need to get your reservations and your registration in as soon as possible.*

*I did not receive any lodge news nor any news about illness from anyone, so assume that everyone is healthy and doing well.*

*Boyd and I are leaving to visit our son, Bob, in Alberta, Canada in a few days and will be gone about two weeks. We are driving and looking forward to seeing some beautiful land that we have not seen before. We plan to take a lot of pictures.*

*Please remember to send in news about your lodge and your members. We really are one big family and families want to hear about other family members. Also, send in change of names, addresses, and email addresses.*

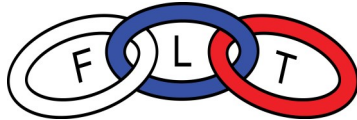
*Thanks to all who submitted articles and information for this issue. Remember to Share the Good News about Odd Fellowship!*

**Barb**

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*Friendship, Love & Truth*

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***Check out our Websites:***

***Rebekah Assembly of NM Website: [www.nmrebekahs.org](http://www.nmrebekahs.org)***

***Grand Lodge of NM Website:***

***[www.ioofnm.org](http://www.ioofnm.org)***

***Sovereign Grand Lodge Website:***

***[www.ioof.org](http://www.ioof.org)***

***Webmaster of NM websites: Nita Jmel***

***"Promoting Odd Fellowship through Positive Communication"***