

Tribe of Ben Hur

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A new secret organization was born yesterday and Crawfordsville has the honor of being its birthplace. It will be known as the "Tribe of Ben Hur," and the rules and principles of the order from the pass word up will be taken from the well-known book whose author is a resident also of this city. It was incorporated last week at Indianapolis with several of our citizens as prime movers in the organization and it is expected that but a few years will elapse before a "Tribe of Ben Hur" will be founded in every county in the US. The Tribe like the book is bound to be popular and thrive. Yesterday afternoon the first sitting of the Temple of the Tribe was held at the IOOF Hall and last night another meeting was held until a late hour. Several gentlemen who are interested in the enterprise were present from Indianapolis to assist in the organization.

There were others present who will begin the work of introducing the order elsewhere. John Snyder having Kansas and Missouri as his field of operations while OP Waterbury will work in Iowa. John Wingate was on hand and will have a Tribe in full bloom in Wingate doubtless before one is thoroughly started here.

The Supreme Tribe includes the follow members: Rev. Tucker; Rev. Howe; FT Luse; George Marley; THB McCain; GW Brower; JH Stroh; Jerre Keeney; Dr. Duncan; Alaric Smith; SM Coffman; JA McClure; Gus Truitt; Charles Hirst; Ed Voris; Frank L. Snyder; Dave Gerard; Roy Gerard; CM Scott; Mayor Bandel; Alex Mahorney; MD White; Tom Nolan; Dr. Davidson; WT Brush; WS Clark; CM Watterbury; WE Henkle; BV Galey; Mac Stilwell; Dave Woodward; JP Grimes; Sam Symmes; Jno. L. Goben; DW Cox; AH Hernley. These gentlemen are members of the Temple of the Supreme Tribe of Ben Hur. In a few weeks Simonides Court No 1 of the Tribe will be organized and it is thought it will start out with a membership of at least 200. Besides the above gentlemen of this city the following from abroad are members: EE Smith, Greencastle; Jno. C. Wingate, Wingate; Robt W McBride, Indianapolis; OP Watterbury, Nora Spring, Iowa; WM McCoy, Bloomingdale; Ira Chase and son Frank of Irvington; Walter A. Royce, Indianapolis; Walter Snyder, Toledo, Ohio and Nelson G. Smith, Greencastle.

It is the intention of the powers that be to organize courts for the ladies and to allow them also to take insurance as well as the gentlemen. The organization is to be beneficial as well as social and as a benefit for this city some idea can be obtained when it is considered that in a few years a magnificent home for the Tribes may be

built here for thousands of dollars poured into the banks monthly. As an advertisement for Crawfordsville it will rival the book Ben Hur and its noted author Gen. Wallace.

The following are the officers elected for the Supreme Temple: Past Supreme Chief, Judge Robert W. McBride; Supreme Chief, ex Governor, Ira J. Chase, Irvington; Supreme Judge, Dr. NG Smith, Greencastle; Supreme Teacher, Rev. Dr. HA Tucker, Crawfordsville; Supreme Captain, George W. Markley, Crawfordsville; Supreme Guide, Fred C. Bandel, Crawfordsville; Supreme Keeper of Inner Gate, OP Watterbury, Nora Springs, Ia; Supreme Keeper of Outer Gate John C. Snyder, Kansas City, Mo; Supreme Keeper of Tribune, SE Voris, Crawfordsville; Supreme Scribe, FL Snyder, Crawfordsville; Supreme Medical Examiner, Dr. JF Davidson, Crawfordsville; Supreme Tribune, WT Royce; President, Ira J. Chase, NG Smith, DW Gerard, FL Snyder, SE Voris and JF Davidson.