

All day December 10th, 1889, the body of the Founder lay in state in the beautiful hall of Lima Lodge. During the day the remains were viewed by at least five thousand Knights and their friends from Lima and the neighboring City of Ohio. On that evening appropriate exercises were held, and addresses made by Past Supreme Chancellor, Howard Douglass of Cincinnati; Major-General, James R. Carnahan, of Indianapolis; Supreme Representative, John C. Burns, of Mansfield, Ohio; Franklin Ellis, Grand Chancellor of the State of Ohio, and others, including myself. The condition of health of Supreme Chancellor, William Ward, of Newark, New Jersey, preventing his presence, he gave me carte blanche to take charge of and represent him in all matters, to the end, that the great obligations then resting upon the Order, should be fully discharged. On the night of December 10th, at eleven o'clock, the body, relatives, escort and the Guard of Honor entered a special vestibule train and started upon their journey to this city. The party accompanying the remains consisted of Past Supreme Chancellor, Howard Douglass; Major-General Carnahan, and Supreme Representative, John C. Burns, representing the Supreme Lodge; Past Grand Chancellor, A. P. Butterfield, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal S. A. Court and Grand Chancellor Franklin Ellis, representing the Grand Lodge of Ohio; Past Chancellors, G. W. Van Rensselaer and Thomas J. Morris, representing Lima Lodge No. 91; the Guard of Honor, under command of Captain Frank C. McCoy, consisting of Sir Knights Bruce Oyler, Frank Schwab, Ezekiel Hover, Will Deakin, Carson L. Dalzell and Walter E. Booth, all of Agamemnon Division No. 11, Uniform Rank, detailed by order of the Colonel of the Seventh Regiment of the Uniform Rank of Ohio. At Toledo, Cleveland, Buffalo and Rochester short stops were made, where the resident members of the Order were given an opportunity to pay their last respects. At Utica, the remains and escort were received by Supreme Chancellor Ward, Supreme Representative James B. Brayton, of Rhode Island, the Grand Lodge Officers of New York and resident members.

In considering Rathbone as a Pythian, probably the greatest and grandest eulogy possible would be the simple announcement—HE WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE ORDER.

As a generation has gone by since the accomplishment of the work that placed his name on the roster of the Immortals, history should be spoken, dealing with facts rather than flowers, reviewing his connection with this great fraternity.

In 1863, a dramatic society existed, composed of government clerks from the various departments of the City of Washington. Those surviving report that the society was quite versatile in its successful efforts to afford entertainment and amusement for its members. Among other things, it was prepared to create, on the shortest possible notice, a man a member of any known or unknown secret society, in the evening, much to their amusement, the enforced interest, and final discomfiture of the victim when he found his signing of the roster was arranged that his signature was an order for midnight lunch for all the participants. The society embraced considerable dramatic and musical talent, and Rathbone was considered and is admitted by those living, as the leader and its moving spirit. This preparation and performance of burlesque initiations, suggested the idea to several members of the association of a permanent society. Rathbone, whose life was marked not so much by the generality of his friendships (for he never seemed to care for an extensive circle of friends, but rather for a closer and continued companionship with a few), suggested an organization based upon some story of brotherly love. It was in the Fall of 1863, when, by an accident, the name "Knights of Pythias," suggested itself to him. Having heard of the play of Damon and Pythias, he secured a copy, and, one evening at a meeting of the dramatic society, (one of the members of which is present here to-day), he read extracts from the play and it was determined that this should form the basis of the ritual.

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